

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of August 1, 2023 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at around 7:00 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

William Caw VY2CAW

Arthur Smith VY2BIT

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Richard Burke VY2RB

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Michael McNeill VY2MG

Michael Morrison VY2CO

Graeme Brown VY2WT

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Charles Easter VY2CE

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Paul Ortenburger VY2PTO

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Brian Gorgeatt VY2BG

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Bill Glydon VY2LI sent his regrets.

Bill VY2WM asked if there were any sick or silent keys. None known. Richard VY2RB was back and doing fairly well.

Announcements:

None noted, but everybody introduced themselves as there were some new faces in the group.

Minutes of July 4, 2023 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that since the minutes for last month's meeting had been emailed to all members there was no need for the secretary to read them. Moved by Rick VY2WTF, seconded by Brian VY2BG to approve the minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Wordpress plugin for website:

It has since been purchased and installed, and is working well. Micah VY2MIC will try to order the archived documents by date.

Flea market and fox hunt:

Both will take place after the summer.

The Carrefour (French School in Charlottetown):

Bill VY2WM and Rick VY2WTF will discuss a proposal that the club can present to the Carrefour regarding the possibility of using their facilities for our clubhouse. Michael VY2CO offered to assist with the proposal. The idea is to offer the school something in return for the space such as training on the use of radio. This would likely have to be in French. William VY2CAW suggested that if we didn't have enough people to teach in French, we could mention the fact that English is the international language of radio. We would teach in English and have a person on hand who could help with any translation if there was a problem understanding.

Rick VY2WTF added that the Carrefour owned part of the building rather than it being owned by the Public School Branch. They are therefore independent in accepting our proposal. Some of the spaces include the theater, the cafeteria, and conference rooms for workshops.

President report:

Bill VY2WM reported that as the RAC Section Manager for PEI he had recently sent an update to the person in charge of the The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine as well as the RAC Community Service Officer Jason Tremblay VE3JXT. The update consisted of 29 bullet points that detailed the radio activities in PEI and the club. Items included things such as our weekly nets, the study courses we offer, discussions with EMO, and events like Field Day and the

Buffalo aircraft activation. We are a very busy island in terms of amateur radio activities. At this point Brent VY2HF pointed out that we were way ahead of other provinces in terms of new amateurs being added to the hobby. It's something like 2.5x the national average.

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE reported that we had one \$30 membership renewed in July, which means that we've now got 25 paid members for 2023 plus the free student memberships. The only expense we had in July was \$46.27 for the Wordpress plugin to improve our website. Bank fees for July are not yet included as the bank statements for the month had not been received by the time of the meeting.

Moved by Richard VY2RB, seconded by Rick VY2WTF that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Rick VY2WTF asked when the free membership period for the Fall 2022 students would finish. Charles VY2CE replied that the free membership would last all throughout 2023. The first membership fees would be due in January 2024. The same date would apply to the 2023 Spring cohort.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that he had been involved in a meeting with the examination committee about two weeks ago. This is where he discovered that PEI has 2.5 times the national average of new hams. We also have more activities.

The exam committee is currently in talks with ISED regarding updates to the basic amateur radio examination. The committee has suggested putting a diagram foundational sheet with the exam so that examinees would no longer have to memorize the block diagrams. The committee would also like to be able to bring out a new study guide at the same time as all the new questions, but ultimately that's up to ISED. The process is quite slow going and will likely not be completed by the time our Fall 2023 course starts. That said, ISED has agreed on many of the proposals that the exam committee has made.

Regarding the club's next basic study course this fall, Brent VY2HF and Bill VY2WM put forward the tentative date of September 11, 2023. This all depends on the location. Bill VY2WM recently spoke with Max at the Red Cross who said that they would be happy to provide us with the space again. However, Bill has yet to hear back from Max regarding a more definite confirmation. Bushra VY2BBK said she would ring Max who'd been on vacation for the past week or two to remind him of Bill's email. At this point, the Red Cross would be our preferred venue for the Fall 2023 course.

Brent VY2HF continued that the course would likely run for 8 weeks with two sessions per week, i.e. 16 in total. This had worked out well in the spring. The Fall 2022 course, when classes took place only once a week, was longer (12 weeks) but with fewer sessions (12 sessions vs 16 sessions).

Brent explained that he currently had a list of 25 interested people, with 18 of those quite keen. Nine of those are women. The list also includes three people from the Fall 2022 course who haven't taken the exam. They could retake the class if they wanted to. Brent said he felt very positive about it all. Micah VY2MIC asked if he should ask in the homeschooling community again. Brent replied that he would get confirmation from the people on his list before deciding if we wanted to find more people. It all depends on the numbers. Bill VY2WM summarized the proposed steps as follows: Ask the people on Brent's list first, then ask the membership if they might know anybody.

William VY2CAW made the suggestion that we could have two classes running alongside one another, each having one session a week. The instructors would still teach two classes per week. This way we could get more people on the course. William's concern was that we should keep our profile in the public eye as much as possible in order to continue our growth. Bill VY2WM replied that he completely agreed with William's point that we should keep the momentum going, but we're currently limited by the number of instructors. Furthermore, the instructors who had taught both the Fall 2022 and the Spring 2022 courses found that the fall course with only one session per week was very crammed. Bill VY2WM is hoping that some more amateurs will step forward to be involved in the teaching of this upcoming course. The hard part had been done, which are the slides and course materials. William VY2CAW agreed that it

ultimately depended on the instructors and what they'd be prepared to do. He thanked the instructors who have put so much time and effort in running these courses.

Brent VY2HF suggested ordering the study guides by the middle of August. He is hopeful that he'll have numbers by then. Brent added that if there were too much demand, we could also divert some people to Al Penny's course at the RAC, which is scheduled to run at around the same time as ours.

Loan Equipment:

Bill VY2WM and Tyler VY2TM said that George VY2GF had loaned a basic antenna analyser to the club, if anybody wanted it. Fraser VY2FA said he would be glad to borrow it.

Bill VY2WM added that there was also a ginpole loaner with pulley to help lift antennas.

William VY2CAW also has one that he could loan out.

Bill VY2WM suggested that we might want to add a members only section to our website where members could loan and borrow equipment.

Fraser VY2FA added that he had all the ingredients to build several 2m $\frac{1}{4}$ wave antennas. They work very well. If anybody would like one, he'd be very happy to gift them one.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that he and Rick VY2WTF were able to replace the temporary dipole in Belfast with a better one. He's hoping to get it hooked up Wednesday (8.2.). Test coverage is very promising; it looks like a great antenna. Ron has been able to access the repeater in Belfast with a 100mW handheld. He added that it did still need a better transmitter. Overall, the single dipole in Belfast is stronger than the Montague repeater due to its better location.

Ron said that he was still looking for a site out east near St. Peters Bay. If anybody knows of anywhere suitable, please let him know. The Glen Valley owner is still not doing anything to the site.

Bill VY2WM thanked Ron VE1AIC and Rick VY2WTF for their work on the Belfast site.

Correspondence:

ICS 200:

Julia VY2JA reported that PEI EMO had emailed the club with information on the upcoming ICS 200 course. The course is to be held at UPEI on August 29th and 30th. It will run from 9:00 AM (900) to 4:00 PM (1600) every day. In order to receive the certificate at the end, both days will have to be attended 100%.

The prerequisite for the ICS 200 course is the ICS 100 course.

Anyone who is interested, please email your name, agency, position, and email to emotraining@gov.pe.ca to register. Seats will be filled on a first come, first-served basis.

Bill VY2WM added that the ICS 200 was connected to the system that the Canadian EMO uses, the Incident Command System (ICS). To get the certificate, you download the course, then sit the exam at home and send it in. It's free to take the course. At some point the idea was mentioned to sit these courses as a group. Some members of the club have already taken the ICS 100 course.

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend:

The information email was circulated to all members earlier in the day. It is also available on Discord and on the club's website.

George VY2GF is organizing the event that is to take place at Point Prim on August 19-20. Set up time is planned for 9:00 AM (900) on the 19th. The event will continue until around 3:00 PM (1500) on the 20th. For more information, see <https://illw.net>.

New/Ongoing Business:

October Flea Market:

Bill VY2WM suggested holding the club's flea market in October as the Moncton one was taking place in September. We would have to find a location by then, maybe the Carrefour.

Club Hardware Inventory:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that details on the club's equipment were emailed out to all members last month. (Note: The Secretary has since emailed the details to all members again.) The plan is to decide as a club which equipment we should keep and what to sell. Members would get first dibs on any sales before we'd offer any items to the general public. If two members wanted to purchase the same item, we could have a silent auction. Any money the

club makes from selling these items could then be used to buy something else once we have a clubhouse.

Bill asked the members of the club to please have a closer look at the inventory list to see what we might want to keep and what we might want to sell.

Long Island CW Club:

Micah VY2MIC told the club that he and Arden VY2ALG were planning to start taking CW classes with the Long Island CW Club (<https://longislandcwclub.org/>) this fall. If anybody wants to join them, it costs around \$45 CAD for one year.

Brent VY2HF mentioned that there were special CW keyer kits for sale that have internal memory. They can be used for training and on the air.

Discord:

Bill VY2WM reminded the members that the club had its own Discord server. There are a lot of discussions going on. If anyone wants an invite email, please contact Bill VY2WM or Julia VY2JA. (Note: The Secretary has since emailed a Discord invite to all members.)

Bill VY2WM adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM. William VY2CAW seconded it.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President