

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of November 7, 2023 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at around 7:05 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Brian Gorveatt VY2BG

Andrew Jorgensen SWL

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Richard Burke VY2RB

Arden Gallant VY2ALG

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Michael McNeill VY2MG

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Reg Sharkey VY2REG

Elizabeth Jorgensen SWL

Michael Morrison VY2CO

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Charles Easter VY2CE sent his regrets.

Bill VY2WM asked if there were any sick or silent keys. Michael VY2CO mentioned that Vern Watson VY2VW had passed away about two weeks ago.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of October 3, 2023 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that since the minutes for last month's meeting had been posted to the club's website there was no need for the secretary to read them. Moved by Richard VY2RB, seconded by Brian VY2BG to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

President report:

Bill VY2WM reported that the Pactor modem the club had received from the PEI EMO had been sold at the flea market to Alan VY2XU for \$500. Alan is very pleased with his purchase and is making good use of it.

Bill continued that the flea market had been a big success. It was great seeing everybody.

He counted 14 tables at \$10 each, 40 attendees at \$2 each, and \$15 donations, which totals to \$235. With the venue costing the club \$156.50 plus HST, i.e. \$181.13 total, we made a clear profit. There were no other costs as all food and drink were donations from club members.

Bill reported that the Yaesu FT101B transceiver had been sold for \$150.

With the flea market having been such a great success, next time we will organize a larger event and invite other Maritime clubs. Bill mentioned that in the olden days we would coordinate the flea markets with the other clubs to make sure none of them took place on the same date. The suggestion was made to have it in the middle of July.

Bill recommended making a decision early in February or March 2024 to book a venue for July, as it was quite difficult getting somewhere this fall at such short notice.

Bill thanked Tracey VY2TAZ, Mike VY2MG, and Graeme VY2WT for the chili and their help setting up. Thanks to Ricardo VY2AN for bringing cookies. He also thanked Julia VY2JA and Fraser VY2FA for bringing some coffee.

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE had to attend a family funeral in Montague in the afternoon and so Julia VY2JA read the Treasurer's report.

It was reported that income for the 2023 flea market included \$80 in admissions, \$140 for tables, \$15 in donations, and \$150 for the sale of the Yaesu FR101B radio.

Our only expense was for hall rental at \$181.13.

Also there are 41 licensed amateurs on the club membership list for the 2024 RAC insurance application.

The sale of surplus club equipment has a total of \$1,443.00.

The bank fees to the end of October now total \$47.10.

Moved by Bill VY2WM, seconded by Fraser VY2FA that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Julia VY2JA reported that it was time to apply for the RAC club insurance for 2024. This is to provide comprehensive liability coverage to protect against liability claims arising from accidents or damage incurred during normal club activities. Julia didn't know how much it would cost, but it would be more than \$100 and needed the members' approval.

Bill VY2WM moved a motion to approve the insurance application. Tyler VY2TM seconded it. All in favour, motion carried.

As Bill VY2WM had paid for the rental of the Sherwood Recreational Hall using his personal credit card, Julia VY2JA moved a motion to have the club reimburse him the \$181.13. Selina VY2OL seconded the motion. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that last evening (Monday) had been the last teaching session for the Fall 2023 Basic course. On Thursday, November 9th, there will be a review session that is open to all students including anyone who's been studying at home.

The exams are to take place on November 16th and 25th. Please reach out to Brent VY2HF if you would like to attend either of these exam sessions.

Brent reported that the students had arranged to have a potluck luncheon at around 12 noon after the morning exam on the 25th. It has been okayed by Omar, who is one of the students and an employee of the Red Cross. Although it's really only a student thing, club drop-ins may also be welcome.

Brent explained that this year he would have the exams printed by a printing company, which would cost about \$60 for one exam session. Brent will pay for the prints himself and then request a reimbursement by the club at a later date.

Brent reported that he had been in contact with a lady called Joanne from the Town of Borden-Carlton regarding the possibility of a custom-designed course for some of their staff members. Initially, the Town was inquiring about the Basic Licensing Course that the club offers, but Brent thought that that may be more than they would need. Joanne was to discuss the matter with the Town's board, but hasn't yet got back to Brent.

At this point, Bill VY2WM thanked Brent VY2HF and Joel VY2KW for teaching the Fall 2023 course, and Julia VY2JA for helping a couple of times with door opening.

Bill VY2WM would like to find six teachers for the next course, as it's simply too much for only three people. Julia VY2JA made the suggestion that we could have only one teacher at each session and one assistant to open the door. This person would not ever be another teacher. Tracey VY2TAZ agreed that she would be happy to assist but wouldn't feel comfortable teaching. Michael VY2MG also agreed that having an assistant instead of doubling up on teachers makes sense.

Micah VY2MIC asked how many people Brent currently had on the list for Spring 2024. Brent replied six. Micah suggested that we might want to shoot for one big class and a bigger venue. Brent agreed that a bigger venue would be great.

At this point, Brent VY2HF reminded the club that Ricardo VY2AN had kindly set up a POTA activation display in front of the Red Cross building prior to one of the classes, which was a great help to the students.

Bill VY2WM said that this Fall class had asked a lot of good questions. He continued to explain that the last Fall course in 2022 had consisted of 12 teaching sessions over a two month period. This time, there were 16 sessions, two per week, over 8 weeks. And yet, they were still pushed for time.

Michael VY2CO asked if anybody was doing the morse code exam, although it was no longer a licensing requirement. Brent replied that there was a lot of curiosity about CW, but it wasn't being taught.

Bill VY2WM mentioned that Micah VY2MIC and Arden VY2ALG were taking a Morse code course with the Long Island CW Club. Maybe at some point we'll be setting up a Morse code practice net.

Bill VY2WM added that, the same as for previous cohorts, there would be a newbie net for the newly licensed hams to practice speaking on the air. It will take place on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on the CRA repeater and will roll over into the regular Wednesday 2m net at 8:00 p.m. that is open to all hams.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that he went to Glen Valley two weeks ago only to discover that the building had a big hole in it. Before doing anything else, Ron repaired the building, and so didn't have a lot of time for the actual repeater installation. It was a very quick install and didn't work 100% immediately. The current status is that the VE1UHF repeater at Glen Valley is now on the air, but not yet 100% fixed up. It's not always turned on and it's not insulated.

Ron continued that the repeater at Belfast was also a work in progress project. The UHF repeater is the hub for it. It currently goes from Belfast to Meadowbank where Ron controls it remotely. The receiving side is amazing, but the transmit side still needs improvement.

Ron explained that most repeaters now had a 100 Hz tone. Tones are more and more common these days.

At this point, Bill VY2WM expressed the club's gratitude to Ron VE1AIC for all this work on the repeaters. Without these systems and the excellent communications they provide, the radio coverage we enjoy would be greatly diminished. As recognition of the effort and expense of maintaining the repeater systems that we make use of on a daily basis, Bill moved a motion for the club to make a one time donation to Ron VE1AIC in the amount of \$400. Seconded by Tyler VY2TM

Tracey VY2TAZ suggested that we should consider a greater amount. Bill replied that we could have another donation at some later time. All in favour, motion carried.

Bill VY2WM said that he would like to spend the next few months identifying what funding might be available for the club.

Correspondence:

None at this time.

New/Ongoing Business:

December Club Social:

Bill VY2WM asked the members present if we would prefer a club social instead of the regular members meeting at the beginning of December. All voted in favour of a club social. So in December instead of having a members meeting, we will be holding a December Social at a restaurant.

Venue suggestions included the Magic Wok and Coaches with a room above. However, as some of our members have walkers it's important that the venue is accessible.

Christmas Net:

Bill VY2WM reported that Doug VY2DS had contacted him about a possible Island-wide Santa Clause Holiday net.

There used to be an 80m net on Christmas Eve where kids and grandkids would go on the air to speak to Santa. We could do something similar this year. We would have to find a Santa and anyone who would like to participate would have to let us know. It hasn't been decided yet if it would be a Christmas Eve Norad-style Santa tracking event or a Christmas Day net.

Tracey VY2TAZ suggested sending an email to everyone to see who might be interested. Bill agreed that he and Julia VY2JA would be sending an email to the club.

Thursday 80m Net Time Change:

Bill VY2WM reminded everyone that the Thursday 80m net was now at 7:00 p.m. for the duration of the winter to beat the change in propagation. This Thursday net (November 9th) will be held by Darrell VY2OM.

Information Exchange:

Ricardo VY2AN gave the club a presentation on POTA ("Parks on the Air") Activation. It was very informative and much appreciated. The website he mentioned was <https://pota.app/#/>

Bill VY2WM adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President