

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of October 3, 2023 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at around 7:03 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

William Caw VY2CAW

Arthur Smith VY2BIT

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Richard Burke VY2RB

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Michael Morrison VY2CO

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Graeme Brown VY2WT

David Cosh VY2DAC

Reg Doyle VY2RF

Dave Altass VY2ZG

Tessa McDuffie SWL

Solomon Kappala SWL

Charles Easter VY2CE

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Michael McNeill VY2MG

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Gordon Bernard VY2GB

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Reg Sharkey VY2REG

Brian Gorveatt VY2BG

Dave Altass' daughter SWL

Elizabeth Jorgensen SWL

Ken Williams SWL

Bill Glydon VY2LI sent his regrets.

Bill VY2WM opened the meeting with an explanation of how the silent auction for the equipment sale was going to work. The attendees then had 20 minutes to look at the equipment available for sale and to note their bids down on the bidding sheets. These were to be handed to Charles VY2CE who together with Joel VY2KW would be announcing the winning bidder by the end of the meeting.

The meeting continued at 7:22 PM.

Bill VY2WM asked if there were any sick or silent keys. He noted that Bill VY2LI had sent his regrets as he wasn't feeling well.

Announcements:

Bill VY2WM informed the club that George VY2GF had sent him photos of a tower near Montague. It consisted of seven 8 ft sections. Rick VY2WTF added that the club would have to make an offer if we were interested.

Minutes of September 3, 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 William VY2CAW, seconded by Arthur VY2BIT to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

At this point, Rick VY2WTF gave the club an update on our proposal to the Carrefour to offer technical expertise, training, and hands-on workshops in exchange for space for a permanent club station. Rick's contact at the school had recently handed in her resignation to pursue a permanent teaching position. The new director started the day before the meeting, Monday, October 2nd, 2023, and would be looking over our proposal in due course.

President report:

Bill VY2WM gave the club a summary report on the 2m Hurricane Lee preparation nets that took place starting Friday September 15th through Sunday September 17th, 2023.

The first net on Friday evening at 7:30 PM was a preparatory net to inform the participants on what to expect and what information they would be asked to provide. There were 16 check-ins. The information collected included their station set-up and whether they had back-up power. Some stations volunteered to monitor the various bands throughout the entire weekend.

The Saturday morning net took place at 9:30 AM. There were 18 or 19 check-ins. Answers were quick and efficient so that the net only took about 30 minutes.

The four questions asked were as follows:

- [1] Are you and your family safe?
- [2] What is the status of your station?
- [3] Do you still have grid power or are you using alternate power?
- [4] Is there anything you need that the club might be able to safely provide?

The emergency net worked very well.

The Saturday evening net took place at 7:00 PM, again, with 18 or 19 check-ins.

By Sunday morning the storm had pretty much moved on and a number of participants had gone to attend church. The Sunday morning net that took place at 9:30 AM had 8 or 9 check-ins. It was decided to cancel the evening net as the storm had been minor and was no longer in the area.

Bill VY2WM had sent the club's emergency preparedness protocol to PEI EMO prior to the event. He will send the same kind of synopsis as he gave the club to EMO in the next few days.

Bill VY2WM informed the club that tropical storm Philippe could possibly hit us this weekend. If need be, we would do another net.

Ron VE1AIC suggested doing a net where everybody would have to use alternate power in order to really test the system. Bill VY2WM was concerned that it might be difficult to motivate people without an actual storm. Ron suggested that enough people would likely participate if we did just one session. Bill agreed.

Ricardo VY2AN suggested adding a fifth question: What is the situation around you in your neighbourhood? Bill VY2WM agreed to add it at the end of the other four questions. Bill also added that it was good protocol for hams who live in the same household to have one designated operator for each net during emergency situations.

William VY2CAW asked if there was a list of warming centres in PEI that we could have. Bill VY2WM replied that Tracey VY2TAZ had the details.

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE reported that income for the 2023 fall licensing course was \$650 for tuition and \$350 for the sale of Coax study guide books. The only expense for September was the bank fee of \$3.75, bringing the total for the year so far to \$41.85.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by Rick VY2WTF that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Prior to the start of the fall course, Bill VY2WM had purchased 9 Coax study guides using his personal credit card. Five of those books are still available. The total invoice amount for the nine study guides was \$483.25. Motion by Charles VY2CE to put the book purchase expense through the club and reimburse Bill VY2WM. Seconded by William VY2CAW. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that the Fall 2023 basic licensing course was going well and that there were now 15 regular attendees. He said the course was one class behind schedule due to the fantastic engagement of the students. Provisionally, exams are expected to take place around the middle of November (~13th-20th). Brent expressed his appreciation to the Red Cross for allowing us to use their space.

Bill VY2WM added that they might be looking for loaner equipment again, the same as at the end of previous courses. It greatly helps new hams to get on the air immediately, which is very important because the longer someone leaves it to make that first call, the less likely they are to

ever do it. Our courses have shown what great camaraderie is built among the students which continues well beyond the classroom. The newbie net that was established at the end of the 2022 Fall course has also been a great success in helping new hams get comfortable speaking on the air.

At this point, Ricardo VY2AN told the club that he would be bringing 5 new handheld radios, fully programmed, to the flea market to sell them at cost to help students get on the air.

Brent VY2HF added that Ricardo VY2AN kindly offered to set up a POTA station on Thursday night (October 5th) outside the Red Cross building just before class time.

Furthermore, Brent VY2HF told the club that he would be buying a number of Anderson Powerpole connectors to bring to the flea market where he would be very happy to put them on people's gear for them. So please, anyone who's interested, bring your cables along to the flea market on October 21st. A message about this is to be sent out to all members in the next few days.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC and some others tested the digital vs analog mode of the repeater at Churchill. They found that for weak signals analog was easier to understand than digital. In conclusion to the testing, the club now has independent digital and analog modes, if needed.

Ron said that the Belfast repeater was doing well. We may in time have a bigger antenna to cover a greater area. Currently, the receive side is excellent, but the transmit side still needs some improvement.

Regarding the Montague repeater, Ron explained that there wasn't much he could do to improve matters. He has a couple of other sites in mind, but with Kings county not having too many active hams, it's not too much of a problem that the Montague repeater isn't working very well. The club does not currently have any funding. At this Point, Dave VY2DAC mentioned that the Summerside club had received government funding for something. Rodney VY2DS had simply contacted the government and later received a cheque in the mail. William VY2CAW reminded the club that some of the MPs who we'd met at Field Day had told us to contact them

regarding funding. Perhaps it's time to do so. Bill VY2WM commented that the Belfast repeater could potentially one day serve the whole of Kings county.

Correspondence:

None at this time.

New/Ongoing Business:

October PEI Flea Market:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that our first flea market was to take place on October 21st at the Sherwood Recreation Centre on Maple Avenue near the Cody Banks Arena.

Bill is planning on getting there early to do the breakfast net from the site. Doors to vendors will open at 9:00 AM, while buyers will be able to enter from 10:00 AM. Vendors will be charged \$10 for a table which will be provided by the centre. Admission for the public will be \$2 per person. The flea market will run from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. After that, from 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM we'll be holding a number of workshops and a fox hunt.

Bill said that we could now tell people about the flea market. We would also invite the Summerside club.

Bill asked how many members present would like to set up a table. Joel VY2KW counted 8 tables. Bill then asked if anybody would be able to help with setting up in the morning. Graeme VY2WT, Mike VY2MG, and Brent VY2HF raised their hands. Bill remembered that Tracey VY2TAZ had previously offered to help with setting up.

Bill then asked how many people would be attending the flea market to which the majority of members present raised their hands. Bill hopes to recoup the venue cost which was something like \$175 or \$180 for the day. It was decided that volunteers would be able to enter the flea market free of charge.

Regarding the afternoon activities, the options mentioned included the assembly of code oscillators, the setting up of antennas such as a J-pole or a tape-measure yagi, help with the programming of new radios, as well as a fox hunt. Brent VY2HF added that anyone interested in participating in the fox hunt should bring their handheld with them.

At this point, Brent mentioned that he'd repeatedly tried contacting the club from whom he'd previously purchased a number of small morse code kits, but to know avail. He has since purchased and built another kit with a memory keyer. At \$39, it wasn't cheap, but it works very well.

Bill VY2WM suggested running digital mode. He said he could operate a station remotely from his home.

Bill also mentioned that he had built his own CW kit using parts that cost around \$15 CAD. It consists of an Aduino Nano 2.5V with batteries, a switch, and some software that he's written himself. If anybody is interested in building something like that, please let Bill VY2WM know.

Finally, Bill VY2WM suggested having a call-in station on site in case people were having difficulties finding the recreation centre.

Michael VY2CO asked about the food situation at the flea market. Bill VY2WM agreed to bring in Chili and rolls. Graeme VY2WT mentioned donuts.

Ron VE1AIC asked if the centre had AC power. Bill VY2WM confirmed that and suggested that vendors should bring a power brick.

Results of Sale of Club Equipment:

Joel VY2HF read out the following winning bids:

#6 - Kenwood TS440 transceiver - Charles VY2CE for \$253

#7 - Kenwood TS440s transceiver - Julia VY2JA for \$315

#8 - Kenwood PS50 power supply - Gordon VY2GB for \$50

#9 - MFJ Versa antenna tuner - Graeme VY2WT for \$35

#10 - Yaesu FT101B transceiver - Ken SWL

#12 - Old handheld radios - Charles VY2CE - \$10

#15 & #16 - Miscellaneous not on list - to Ken SWL and Rick VY2WTF

Bill VY2WM adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President