

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of September 5, 2023 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at around 7:15 PM, after which everybody introduced themselves.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Charles Easter VY2CE

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

William Caw VY2CAW

Tracey Allen VY2TAZ

Arthur Smith VY2BIT

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Michael McNeill VY2MG

Richard Burke VY2RB

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Michael Morrison VY2CO

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Ken Williams SWL

Elizabeth Jorgensen SWL

Andrew Jorgensen SWL

Bill Glydon VY2LI, Rick VY2WTF, and Micah VY2MIC sent their regrets.

Bill VY2WM asked if there were any sick or silent keys. Michael VY2CO mentioned that Jacob Coke of St. Andrews in Stratford who used to have the call sign VE1ATT had recently passed away.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of August 1, 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. It was noted that there was an error in the minutes: "ginpole" had been written as "gympole". This has now been corrected. Moved by Richard VY2RB, seconded by William VY2CAW to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

President report:

Bill VY2WM reported that following the PEI EMO's request for help with the setting up of a couple of radios in their radio room, he'd been able to set up an Icom 2m mobile radio as well as an Icom 70cm mobile radio and connect them to the respective antennas on the roof.

The next job the EMO would like assistance with is the setting up of VHF/UHF radios to take to the site of an emergency. They would also need a portable antenna for this.

Bill VY2WM continued his report with an update on the last NGO council meeting that took place last Thursday, August 31, 2023. The EMO NGO council consists of non-government organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, Search & Rescue, Samaritan's Purse, and the Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club. The purpose is to assess and coordinate each NGO's resources to aid the government in their response during emergency situations. At the last meeting, each NGO gave an update on their activities. The next task for each council member organization is to write a two paragraph document on what they can and cannot bring to the table during an emergency. At some point in the future, the plan is to hold a tabletop exercise where a theoretical situation is worked through as if it were real.

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE reported that in August we had sold two Coax study guides and received three tuition fees for the Fall 2023 course. The only expenses during August were bank fees bringing the total for the year to \$38.10.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by William VY2CAW that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that we currently had 19 potential students. If all 19 appear, we will have to think about how we can fit everybody in.

The group is made up of all ages and an equal split between men and women. The study guides that Bill VY2WM ordered have already arrived.

Lessons are to start on Monday, September 11, 2023 and will take place every Monday and Thursday with the exception of Thanksgiving. Charles VY2CE will be at the first session with the club's receipt book in case any of the new students wanted to pay the tuition fees at that time.

Bill VY2WM mentioned that he had three study guides with him at the meeting in case anybody would like to buy one.

Charles VY2CE and Brent VY2HF agreed that the success rate for students enrolled on a course was around 75%. It is more difficult to study on your own. Michael VY2MG added that he found the Spring 2023 course fun, interesting, and very helpful thanks to the great teachers.

Bill VY2WM informed the club that all study material would be posted to a special student Discord page to make referring back to the notes easier. A couple of things that made the Fall 2022 course a success were (1) that the new hams could borrow loaner equipment to get them started immediately, and (2) the especially set up newbie net that allowed the new hams to get used to speaking on the air in a comfortable environment. Bill added that part of the tuition fee paid for the first year of club membership.

Bill VY2WM and Joel VY2HF said that the club due to its many members had an impressive combined experience of over 1000 years. Julia VY2JA reported that there were over 50 members

in the club and that we had over 80 newsletter recipients. Brent VY2HF said that the PEI club was growing faster than any other club in Canada. Bill VY2WM added that he and Tracey VY2TAZ had recently spoken to the president of the Halifax club which, considering that Halifax is quite a big city, has only 90 members on paper and only 10 who are actually active.

William VY2CAW added that an amateur radio licence was really a licence to learn. Once you pass the exam, that's when the learning really starts. William then asked if we would do "show and tell" again as part of the teaching sessions. Bill VY2WM said that we would set up an agenda with dates and curriculum details so that people could put their names down for "show and tell". Brent VY2HF said that he would show Julia VY2JA where she can find the course timetable to share with the club.

Repeater Update:

None at this time.

Correspondence:

None at this time.

Julia VY2JA asked if Charles VY2CE had ever received the invoice for the addition of the City of Charlottetown as a Named Insured. Charles said he hadn't so Julia was to follow up with the RAC.

New/Ongoing Business:

Disposition of Club Hardware:

A list of the club's hardware inventory where Bill VY2WM had marked his suggestions for which items we might want to sell was recently emailed to all members. Bill asked for the member's opinions.

The idea is to offer anything that the club decides to sell to the membership first. This would take place at the next meeting in October by means of a silent auction. Members would receive a discount. Anything left over would be for sale to the public at the flea market in October at the full market price.

Charles VY2CE said that he agreed with Bill's choices as far as the old club's equipment was concerned. He didn't know the newer EMO equipment and so couldn't comment on them.

Bill VY2WM mentioned that some of the stuff on the list was very expensive, such as two brand new Pactor modems received from the EMO that were valued at around \$1,100. Any money we make, we could use to buy any equipment we need for our club station.

Charles VY2CE said that most of the club equipment was 25-30 years old. Bill VY2WM added that despite the age, some of the Kenwood stuff might be useful for new members. Joel VY2KW agreed that Kenwood radios lasted very well.

Bill VY2WM informed the club that thanks to Rick VY2WTF the Belfast fire department had donated a new Champion 3500w generator. As we also have an older Honda 3500w generator, we could sell that one as it's already 25 years old. Bill asked Darrell VY2OM if he thought the club needed two generators. Darrell replied that during an emergency situation we might want to have two. Charles VY2CE pointed out that nowadays it was very common to use batteries instead of generators. It was agreed to try selling the older Honda generator for a reasonable price. If the price was too low, we would keep it.

Bill VY2WM and Charles VY2CE are to bring all the equipment marked for sale (except for the generator perhaps) to the next monthly meeting in October for a silent auction. Anything not sold will be offered for sale at the October flea market.

October Flea Market:

Bill VY2WM informed the club that our first flea market would take place on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Sherwood Recreation Centre on Maple Avenue near the Cody Banks Arena. With the space not being overly large and this being our first flea market, we will only officially invite the Summerside club and other Island hams. Anyone from out of province who hears about it and wants to attend would of course be welcome, but we will not advertise the event off island. If all goes well, then next year's flea market could be a bigger event.

The current schedule is as follows: Bill VY2WM is planning to run the 2m virtual breakfast net from the rec centre. Vendors arrive at 9:00 AM and doors are opened to attendees at 10:00 AM.

We'll charge \$10 for a table and \$2 to attend. The flea market will run from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. After that, from 1:00 PM till 6:00 PM we'll be holding workshops and possibly a fox hunt.

Bill VY2WM estimated that we might have 10-12 tables. He's hopeful that the event will pay for itself.

Michael VY2OC asked if there would be food at the event. Bill VY2WM replied that there was a kitchen at the site, but that his suggestion would be for us to bring food ourselves. Bill offered to bring two chili pots. We could have rolls with them. Ricardo VY2AN said he could bring brownies. We could use paper plates and pots for the event.

Other Club Activities for the Fall:

Bill VY2WM asked what other activities members would like the club to do this fall. POTA and winter field day were mentioned. William VY2CAW suggested actually planning a club event for the next winter field day. Ricardo VY2AN who did winter field day in 2023 said that it had been a great experience and that it wouldn't need to be a long event with it being winter.

Information Exchange:

Brent VY2HF gave a presentation on the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse. Presentation notes are available on Discord under [#meeting-related](#).

Bill VY2WM adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM. William VY2CAW seconded it.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President