

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of August 6, 2024 meeting

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

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Bruce Maclean VY2BM

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Andrew Jorgensen VY2HZ

Reg Sharkey VY2REG

Graeme Brown VY2WT

Charlie Mullen VY2CK

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Richard Burke VY2RB

Arthur Smith VY2BIT

Charles Easter VY2CE

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Brian Gorgeatt VY2BG

Aaron Boeker VY2EK

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Elizabeth Jorgensen VY2KV

William Caw VY2CAW

Doug Sillicker VY2DS

Ken Williams SWL

Tracey Allen VY2TAZ

We were delighted to be able to welcome Phil Weiss K8PJW and his wife Jane to our meeting. They're visiting the island from Twinsburg, Ohio.

Sick and Silent Keys:

Bill VY2WM noted that Bill Perry VY2BP had sadly passed away in July. Bill VY2BP was a former president of the club as well as a lifetime member.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of July 2, 2024 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that since the minutes for the last members' meeting had been emailed to all members there was no need for the secretary to read them. There were no questions regarding the minutes.

Moved by Rick VY2WTF, seconded by William VY2CAW to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that our QRZ.com page hadn't been updated since 2018. Bill will ask Bill VY2LI for the login details so that someone else can update the page.

Bill VY2WM told the club that he had written a thank you email to Lynn and Todd from Wood Island Lighthouse and Provincial Park for allowing us to use the site for Field Day. Todd replied immediately. He is interested in taking our basic licensing course so Bill will email him again.

President Report:

Cape Bear Lighthouse:

Bill VY2WM reported that Cape Bear Lighthouse celebrated its 25th anniversary of being open to the public on July 6th. Due to rainy weather, the event had to be moved to the 13th. Bill VY2WM thanked all of the hams who came out to Cape Bear to help set up and operate the portable stations. Valerie from the Lighthouse was pleased with our efforts.

Treasurer Report:

Charles VY2CE reported that one new member had joined in July, giving total income from membership of \$810.00 to date. The July 27th flea market had income of \$355.00 from

admissions, \$100.00 from the sale of tables, and a donation of \$13.36, giving a total of \$468.36. Flea market expenses were door prizes \$246.86, donation to St. Marks \$100.00, office supplies \$17.00, and coffee supplies \$33.15 for a total of \$397.01. The total profit from the flea market was just over \$70.

Bank expenses for the month of July were \$3.75.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by Tyler VY2TM that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Bill VY2WM added that he had purchased a number of door prizes for the flea market: a \$50 bridge pass, two \$25 gas cards, and four Retivis handhelds for a total of about \$146. In the end, it was decided to only use one handheld as a prize. The others could be kept as future door prizes or loaners for future radio classes. We could also sell them or have them ready for emergency situations. Bill said we would discuss this later.

The person who won the handheld at the flea market was Bob VY2NX who very kindly gifted it to Elizabeth VY2KV.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that he currently had a total of nine prospective students on his list for the next basic licensing course. He said that he was still looking for more students, although eight or nine students was a perfect number for the Red Cross location.

Brent advised the club that we would need to give Bill VY2WM the authority to buy the COAX books for the next course. We're expecting each book to cost \$65. Tuition fees will again be \$50, payable only once. Anyone who has previously paid for the course and would like to attend it again can do so free of charge. We're looking to start the next course at the beginning of September, perhaps the 5th. The course would then run until November.

Brent said that we had had a great experience in the spring with two extra instructors: Ricardo VY2AN and Aaron VY2EK. We're looking for even more instructors this time round, so if anyone would like to put their name down even for just a single class, then please let Brent VY2HF, Bill VY2WM, or Joel VY2KW know. We're also looking for assistants.

Brent VY2HF added that we were also looking into organizing an advanced study seminar group, whereby those interested would meet once a week in the library, for example, to help answer any questions. It would essentially be a self-study group. Anyone interested, please reach out to Brent VY2HF, Bill VY2WM, or Joel VY2KW.

Bill VY2WM told the club that the Red Cross had been our venue since 2022. In spring 2024, Max wanted us to put an antenna on the roof. For some reason, there already is a Pix2 antenna up there, but nobody knows anything about it.

After some discussion, it was decided to purchase up to 10 COAX study guides despite the fact that there would be a change in the exam question bank from May 2025 onwards. Brent VY2HF explained that the course content itself wouldn't be too much affected by the change in the question bank. Bill VY2WM said that he would confirm prices before ordering.

Moved by Doug VY2DS, seconded by William VY2CAW to approve the purchase of a maximum of 10 COAX study guides for the next fall 2024 course. All in favour, motion carried.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that the Montague repeater overheated a couple of weeks ago. Ron, Rick VY2WTF, and Alan VY2WU were able to replace the PA and add a fan. They also replaced the controller with a temporary one. There is currently no voice ID, but there is CW. It works well, but Ron will likely put the original controller back in. The Montague repeater is now running as well as it can.

Ron reported that the Belfast repeater was working well, even from Summerside. It was also overheating and so Ron replaced the fan arrangement. It's been up to 50C, but that's ok. Montague went up to 60C.

Flea Market Wrap-up Report:

Ricardo VY2AN reported that the flea market had been a total success. The location was ideal and the table arrangement worked out great. There was plenty of space. The lunch was perfect as was access to the backyard.

Ricardo has given our \$100 donation to the minister of St. Marks who was very thankful. The church would be happy to host us again, but we should book the space early for next time, as the site is very popular.

Joel VY2KW thanked Ricardo VY2AN and everyone who was involved in organizing and setting up the event.

Bill VY2WM reported that everybody he had spoken to said that our flea market was up there with the Halifax one. Everybody was happy with the \$5 admission charge. Bill said he'd forgotten to put down a donation jar for the chili. He suggested preparing a flea market "to do" checklist and box for next year.

Bill thanked everybody involved and asked if we wanted to aim for next July for our next flea market.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

New/Ongoing Business:

PEI Flea Market:

Bill VY2WM said that this year's flea market had been a great success, even better than last year's. Tracey VY2TAZ suggested reaching out to people earlier next year to enable those from away to plan their trips.

Dual Band HTs From Flea Market:

We still have three dual band handhelds left over from the flea market. We will decide what to do with them. Bill VY2WM thanked Ron VE1AIC for programming Elizabeth's handheld.

Gear Donations:

Bill VY2WM told the club that Syd VY2MAC's health was deteriorating and so had reached out to the club to donate his equipment.

Bill VY2BP's family have contacted Dave VY2DAC about his equipment. Dave thinks that anything that he can't sell, Bill's family will donate to the club.

Buffalo Aircraft Activation:

Doug VY2DS said that the 50th anniversary event would be taking place August 9-10. Unlike last year, they will be setting up at Slemon Park, Summerside, next to the plane rather than inside of it. Aaron VY2EK, Darryl VY2OM, and Selina VY2OL are planning on going up. Doug said that anyone was welcome to come up and operate a station. Anyone who's not used a special call sign yet should definitely come up to Slemon Park this weekend.

St. Johns Ambulance Training - August:

Bill VY2WM said that St. Johns Ambulance had asked our club to visit them to look at their equipment and tell them what exactly it is they have. Bill will arrange a visit time with them. William VY2CAW suggested asking if they might have space for our club station.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) - Aug 17-18:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that George VY2GF would like to activate all nine of the PEI heritage lighthouses during the International Lighthouse Activation Weekend. There is a list on the Club Discord Server and the volunteers for each one. One or two of the lighthouses are still available. Darryl VY2OM and Selina VY2OL will try to operate from St. Peter's Harbour. Access to the actual lighthouse is difficult as all is boarded up and there is no power, but as you can operate anywhere within 1km radius, it's possible to operate from the parking lot.

Bill VY2WM said he would operate from Cape Bear Lighthouse using the new call sign VY2CBL. Bill VY2WM passed on the message from George VY2GF that there would be a BBQ at Point Prim.

150th Anniversary Event for Lucy Maud Montgomery - November:

Doug VY2DS said he was thinking about setting up an event in November similar to the RCAF event. He's considering purchasing the call sign VY2LMM, which could be shared among

operators. The event could also become an annual thing. Doug will give us more info at the next meeting in September.

Bill VY2WM suggested using something other than Facebook to allocate the use of the call sign.

Doug VY2DS adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President