

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of February 13, 2024 meeting

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

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Richard Burke VY2RB

Bruce Maclean VY2BM

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Charles Easter VY2CE

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Solomon Kappala VY2SK

Devin Garlick VY2DFG

Bill Glydon VY2LI

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Aaron Boeker VY2EK

Mike McNeill VY2MG

Ron MacKay VE1AIC, Tracey Allen VY2TAZ, and Mike McNeill VY2MG sent their regrets.

Sick and Silent Keys:

Bill VY2WM said that it was great to see Richard VY2RB. He mentioned that Ron VE1AIC had written on Discord that he wasn't feeling well. Tracey VY2TAZ still wasn't 100%.

Fraser VY2FA asked Richard VY2RB if he knew anything about Michael VY2CO as he and Julia VY2JA had not been able to get ahold of him. Richard said that he'd seen Michael two days ago. Bill asked if anybody was aware of any silent keys. None known.

Announcements:

Charles VY2CE announced that membership fees for 2024 were now due: \$20 for RAC members and \$30 for non-RAC members. Acceptable payment methods include e-transfer to treasurer@charlottetownarc.com or cash or cheque at the meetings.

Minutes of January 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. Moved by Richard VY2RB, seconded by Bill VY2LI to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

President Report:

Winter Field Day:

Bill VY2WM reported that 15 people had participated in Winter Field Day this year, quite a difference from last year, when Ricardo VY2AN was the only one taking part. It was a great success.

CBC news reporter from NB:

Bill VY2WM told the members that a CBC news reporter from NB had contacted him about the possibility of coming to PEI for an interview about ham radio. Currently, we're the only amateur radio club in the Maritimes who have responded. The news reporter will call Bill to discuss the possible angle of the article.

Meeting at the Carrefour:

Bill VY2WM reported that a few weeks ago Brent VY2HF, Rick VY2WTF, and himself met with Emile Gallant, the director of the Carrefour French school, to discuss the club's proposal to have a club station at the school in exchange for technical expertise, training, and workshops. The director gave our delegation a tour of the facilities, but explained that they were tight on space. There was going to be a directors' meeting where Mr. Gallant was going to bring up the proposal. He has not yet got back to us.

Bill suggested that we could ask the Carrefour if we can perhaps hold our monthly meetings at the school and so get our foot in the door.

Ricardo VY2AN asked if there might be space to hold our flea market there. Brent VY2HF replied that, as far as he knew, the gym was usually used for sporting events on weekends, but they'd never actually asked this particular question at the meeting.

Treasurer Report:

Charles VY2CE reported that income from membership in January had been \$290.00 from 12 members and that there were three members who had prepaid for 2024 back in 2023.

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

Bill VY2WM added that he had a few invoices that still needed to be paid.

At this point, Bill VY2LI asked Charles what the bank balance at the end of January 2024 had been. Answer: \$3,998.81 in the chequing account and \$97.25 in the dormant account.

Moved by Bill VY2LI, seconded by Mike VY2MG that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that we didn't yet have the venue for the spring 2023 basic licensing course secured, but that he was positive that the Red Cross would allow us to use their space again.

Brent said that currently there were 12 new contacts that were very interested in taking the spring course. He also has 26 historical contacts on his "interested" list. So, overall, there are potentially 38 people interested in our course, although, as Brent explained, a recent contact is more likely to actually sign up than a historical contact.

Based on a survey, Brent has discovered that most students prefer a 2 nights a week schedule. The plan is to start the upcoming course around the third week of March for 8 weeks. This would take the course up to early May.

Brent said he would reach out to the new contacts to find out what start date would work best for them.

Bill VY2WM then brought up the subject of instructors. It would be ideal if more members could volunteer to teach some of the classes. With the slides being provided, no major preparation is required. Julia VY2JA suggested matching an instructor with a non-instructor so as not to double up the instructors, giving them more time off. There are probably a number of people who would be willing to assist, but don't feel comfortable teaching.

Ricardo VY2AN asked if we could have access to the teaching slides. Brent replied that they could be accessed via the club's student Discord server.

Bill VY2WM said that he would reach out to the Red Cross to ask if we could use their facilities again.

Correspondence:

Julia VY2JA reported that the club was contacted by a gentleman from NS called Sean VE1XOP. He's offering info sessions via Zoom or in person on topics such as FT8, SSTV, PSK31, and understanding some open source software to use in these modes.

Bill VY2WM suggested that we might want to invite Sean to speak to the club at the end of a meeting via Zoom on FT8 and perhaps slow scan TV. The majority of the members present were in favour of that.

Ricardo VY2AN asked if the session could be recorded for members to watch online. Bill replied that that could be a possibility.

New/Ongoing Business:

SPARC proposal for shared president membership:

Doug VY2DS suggested offering free membership in the Summerside club to the president of the Charlottetown club, and vice versa, to encourage more inter-club involvement. Bill VY2WM was in favour of the idea as it wouldn't cost anything and would encourage the two clubs to work together more closely. It would involve him attending the monthly Summerside meetings, and Doug to attend our monthly meetings. The majority of the members present

were in favour of the proposal. Doug VY2DS was to bring it up to the SPARC tonight and have a vote on it.

Solomon VY2SK asked about the dual membership agreement that used to exist between the two clubs. Bill VY2LI explained that RAC membership proved to be a stumbling block and so the agreement no longer exists. That said, any CARC member can still be a member of SPARC, and vice versa.

Charles VY2CE asked if the two presidents would have regular voting rights, to which Bill VY2WM replied that he presumed so. The idea was free full membership for the president of the other club.

Solar Eclipse:

With the total solar eclipse taking place in April 2024 and passing right over western PEI, Bill VY2WM asked if members were interested in a club activity.

Fraser VY2FA asked where this activity would take place - Charlottetown or the actual path.

Brent VY2HF explained that maximum totality could be experienced best at North Cape.

However, to really experience the full effect of the eclipse on the radio, the best location would be at home at our stations. He personally will follow the sun and record the happenings on the radio.

Bill VY2WM suggested that, as a club, there may be some radio experimentation to do. Brent agreed that during the eclipse it would likely be possible to make contacts that we normally wouldn't be able to, but it might mean missing the eclipse. Bill replied that a POTA-style activity might be the answer to combine the two. Bill VY2WM is to set up a discussion on the Discord Server to plan the event.

RCAF 100th anniversary:

Bill VY2WM told the members present that the Royal Canadian Air Force would be celebrating their 100th anniversary this April and that there would be radio activities to mark the event.

Bill VY2LI explained that he had received an email from Bob VY2NX from the west side of the island. Apparently, the London ON amateur radio club is organizing a Canada-wide event with a special call sign for each province. Ours will be VY2RCAF. Bill VY2LI will be coordinating

RTTY operations, while Bob VY2NX will focus on phone contacts. Anyone interested should get in touch with either Bill VY2LI or Bob VY2NX.

Bill VY2WM asked if it was only a Canadian event to which Bill VY2LI replied that it was worldwide.

Bill VY2WM is to send out an email to the club via Julia VY2JA with more information on the event.

SMART24 Symposium:

Bill VY2WM told the club that the Westcumb Radio Club in Springhill NS would be holding another SMART symposium on May 4, 2024. Bill explained that it was a great event especially for newer hams. It takes place in the hockey arena in Springhill. There are a number of presentations as well as a flea market. Bill VY2WM and Brent VY2HF are planning on giving a live presentation on Winlink. Although the event is only one day, some people drive down the night before. Carpooling is an option. Bill doesn't know yet how much it'll be.

Quarterly Emergency Communication Protocol:

Bill VY2WM said that, if there was interest in regular practice activation of our Emergency Communication Protocol, he could put together a schedule.

Retivis offer:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club of the offer we had received from Retevis, a Chinese radio manufacturer. The idea was for us to endorse or advertise their radios in exchange for free equipment.

Bill has not yet requested more information. Another Maritime club who had received the same offer rejected it straight away.

Bill VY2LI suggested asking Yaesu, Icom, and Kenwood for free equipment in exchange for endorsement. Ricardo VY2AN suggested asking Retevis to sponsor one of our events like Field Day.

Aaron VY2EK said that it may be inappropriate for a radio amateur club to enter into such an agreement. Ricardo VY2AN replied that those limitations only applied to on-the-air communications.

Bill VY2WM suggested asking them for five free radios in exchange for an honest report after 6 months. Bill VY2LI voiced the opinion that there should be no strings attached.

Bill VY2WM is to reach out to the RAC to ask for their views on the matter.

Public Information Sessions:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that we had previously talked about holding a one hour information session on radio at the Charlottetown library. With the spring basic licensing course having so many interested potential students already, Bill suggested postponing the info session until the fall.

Summer Field Day:

Bill VY2WM told the members that Rick VY2WTF had suggested perhaps holding Field Day down in Belfast where they'd be celebrating Belfast Day at the same time. The location is also a POTA site, which would be an added bonus.

Bill VY2WM said that we may not be able to set up overnight at that location. If it's too public, it could be dangerous.

Clubhouse Station:

Bill VY2LI asked if we had already set up a committee to work together on finding a permanent location for our club station. Bill VY2WM replied no. Bill VY2LI continued that it would be his suggestion to set up such a committee that would report back to the club on a monthly basis. Volunteers for such a committee included Bill VY2LI, Bushra VY2BBK, and Devin VY2DFG.

Bill VY2LI said that the first thing to do for such a committee would be to get a plan in place to answer the following questions: What do we actually need? And where are we prepared to go? How far outside of Charlottetown would be acceptable?

Ricardo VY2AN told the club that he had recently visited the clubhouse of the London ON radio club. They had formed an alliance with the local Air Force retired group. Perhaps something like that would be an option for us as well. Bushra VY2BBK suggested asking the

RCMP in Stratford who own a large place. Brent VY2HF said they had tried to reach out to them in the past, but without success.

Julia VY2JA suggested contacting Michael Poczynek VY2MJ who is a member of our radio club and also a well known and well connected real estate agent.

Brent VY2HF said that there was a room in the Stratford Town Hall that may be a possibility.

Richard VY2RB suggested contacting the Military Family Resource Centre.

Bill VY2WM said that the Red Cross had a room. We could set up an antenna for them and help them with setting up the station. It wouldn't be our equipment, but perhaps we could use it as our club station in exchange. That said, Chris Vessey VY2CV is connected to the Red Cross and their go-to radio person. We wouldn't want to step on Chris' toes. VY2LI asked if anybody had spoken to Chris. Ricardo VY2AN said that he knew Chris Vessey and would be happy to speak to him. Brent VY2AN said that with the station at the Red Cross not actually being ours, it would really only be a temporary solution. Ultimately, we would like to have our own clubhouse and station, using our own equipment.

Aaron VY2EK suggested using a trailer as a club station. It would then only be a matter of finding a location where to park the trailer. We would still need access to a tower. Brent VY2HF replied that the Fredericton NB club had done this very thing and it ended up being a burden for the club.

Moved by Bill VY2WM, seconded by Ricardo VY2AN to create a committee to find a permanent home for the club. All in favour, motion carried.

Information Exchange:

All going well, Bill VY2LI will give his presentation on contest resources at the March meeting. Bill VY2WM said that we could perhaps do a series on contesting, with perhaps a 30 minute presentation followed by 15 minutes Q&A.

Bill VY2LI adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President