

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of June 4, 2024 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Bruce Maclean VY2BM

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Bill Glydon VY2LI

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Michael Morrison VY2CO

Solomon Kappala VY2SK

Doug Silliker VY2DS

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Richard Burke VY2RB

Aaron Boeker VY2EK

Charles Easter VY2CE

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Brian Gorgeatt VY2BG

Mike McNeill VY2MG

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Courtney Lawson VY2ON

Aaron Shelvey VY2DIY

Devin Garlick VY2DFG

Sick and Silent Keys:

None noted.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of May 7, 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 Doug VY2DS, seconded by Charles VY2CE to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

None noted.

President Report:

Bill VY2WM said that he had nothing specific to report. All would be covered in later sections on Field Day and the flea market.

Treasurer Report:

Charles VY2CE reported income from membership so far of \$780.00 from 32 members and that there were three members who had prepaid for 2024 back in 2023. There are also two life members, giving a total paid membership of 37. Donations received to date total \$60.

Charles continued his report saying that we had received \$450.00 in tuition fees for the spring 2024 course as well as \$350.00 from the sale of seven COAX study guide books. This gives us a total income of \$1,660.00 up to the end of May.

Bank expenses up to the end of May were \$24.15, office expenses \$132.06, and three COAX books \$189.26. There was also a charge of \$20 for the Annual Return for Part II (Non-profit) Companies, giving a total of \$365.47 for expenses up to the end of May.

Moved by Bill VY2WM, seconded by Charles VY2CE that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Spring 2024 Basic Licensing Course:

Brent VY2HF welcomed Courtney VY2ON to the meeting. Courtney is one of the five students from the spring 2024 course who has already passed his exam. Two others - Chris and Richard - have been out of the country. They and two others will be writing their exams next Monday at the airport.

Brent said that he already had a list of potential students for a fall 2024 course. Michael VY2CO said that he had a new contact at the Carrefour who wanted his name added to the list.

Brent expressed his thanks to the Red Cross for allowing us to use their space for our radio courses. Bill VY2WM agreed and added that as the section manager for the RAC he always made sure to officially thank the Red Cross in his reports.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that there was not much happening at the moment. He said he had not been in Belfast as Rick VY2WTF is currently busy with his new house. Everything is ready to go.

New Club Station Location Committee Update:

Bill VY2LI reported that he would like to step down from chairing the New Club Station Location Committee. He said that he didn't have the energy nor the contacts for the leadership position. He would like to continue to be involved. Bill VY2WM asked if anybody else would like to take over the role. Nobody has come forward as yet.

Bill VY2WM told the club that Bushra VY2BBK's husband Adam had contacted him to arrange a meeting. Adam has a lot of contacts in the community and would like to help us find a new club house. Tracey VY2TAZ (via Discord) added that he was a doctor. Michael VY2CO asked Bill VY2WM if he could join him and Adam at the meeting. Bill agreed.

Field Day Committee Update:

Ricardo VY2AN reported that he and a group of others had gone down to the Wood Island Lighthouse to check things out. He said it was a perfect location. There are definitely washrooms available for us, possibly a canteen as well. Bill VY2WM added that there was plenty of space to set up towers away from the public.

Ricardo said that the plan was to have a big 10m station as well as a 20m and a 6m station. There will also be a GOTA station set up by various club members - 15m or 40m, whatever works.

Ricardo is currently waiting to hear back from Gloria to see if we can use the smaller lighthouse. Rick VY2WTF is waiting for written confirmation that we can camp on the site. We currently only have verbal confirmation.

Very soon Ricardo will have sign-up sheets for members to put their names down for the various stations as well as for set-up and take-down.

Michael VY2CO asked if we were still planning on having a PR station at the Belfast Days. Ricardo confirmed that Rick would be there with an information table.

Flea Market Committee Report:

Ricardo VY2AN reported that the location was St. Mark's Presbyterian Church on Tamarac Avenue in Charlottetown. We're now ready to start promoting the event. In fact, Frank VE1FSM on the morning net has already started telling people about it. Ricardo said that there was a form on our website for people to reach out and/or sign up for tables. He has already had one person from NB get in touch.

Bill VY2WM said that Jim Langille VE1JBL who owns the Maritime Amateur had heard about our flea market. Jim also has a Facebook page now. He has about 300 regular readers and has offered to promote our event. Bill will give him the go-ahead.

Charles VY2CE asked Ricardo VY2AN for a detailed breakdown of the various revenue sources for the financial report. Ricardo agreed.

Correspondence:

None.

New/Ongoing Business:

Field Day June 22-23:

Bill VY2WM repeated that soon there would be a sign up sheet for operating times and assistance.

Ricardo VY2AN said that Darryl VY2OM was planning to already arrive on Friday June 21 to start setting up. Everyone is welcome to join them for an extra night of camping.

Bill VY2WM asked if the committee had any info on public relation cards or info sheets. Ricardo said that they could use last years, to which Bill replied that they would need updating. Devin VY2DFG offered to update and print them.

Bill VY2WM said that we would need 1-2 people to focus primarily on public relations. We also need a safety officer. Ricardo replied that Rick VY2WTF would again be our safety officer.

Bill VY2WM reported that George VY2GF and Bernie were organizing a Field Day event at the Red Cross. They're looking for a radio ham to assist them with the PR side of things. If anybody is interested, please reach out to George.

Doug VY2DS asked what call sign we would use on Field Day. Bill replied that we could use VY2CRS for the main station. Doug said that we could use VY2CFB, owned by the Summerside club, for GOTA. He will also reach out to Ken who owns VE1PEI to ask if we could perhaps use it. Some members voiced the opinion that a two-letter call sign would be preferable.

Moved by Brent VY2HF, seconded by Solomon VY2SK to use VY2CRS for our main station on Field Day. Vast majority approved, one opposed, motion carried.

Doug VY2DS mentioned that the Summerside club would be having their last dinner of the season next Wednesday, June 12, at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join them. Please let Doug or Roddy know if you'll be coming to reserve your seat at the restaurant.

Cape Bear Lighthouse 25th Anniversary - July 6:

Bill VY2WM explained that Cape Bear Lighthouse first opened to the public 25 years ago. It has had a close connection to radio for a long time as it was the first station to receive the SOS from the Titanic back in 1912. They reached out to us to ask us if we would be interested in setting up a station for their 25th anniversary event.

Brent VY2HF spoke to Valerie who is on the Board of the lighthouse. He said that they currently didn't have a schedule for the day, but he expects that our part would be perhaps late morning. The idea is to set up a station so that the public can experience what it's like to receive a transmission. Voice SSB is an option, but most likely it would be CW, as that's the traditional mode that was used at the time of the Titanic. Brent said that this might become a permanent feature, as Cape Bear Lighthouse becomes more touristy.

The idea is to go down and set something up. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, but if that was a rainy day, it would take place on Sunday, June 7. Doug DS said that he would like to be involved.

Michael VY2CO suggested offering a certificate for anybody who can successfully send a small CW message. Brent agreed that that would be a great idea.

Bill VY2WM said that he had received a morse code poster from Bill VY2LI as a donation for our club station. This could be used as a resource.

Bill VY2WM will send out an email to the membership to organize a scout tour to the site. Darryl VY2OM suggested checking with George VY2GF to see if he might have had the same idea as us.

Bill VY2WM suggested doing some research into Cape Bear Lighthouse's involvement in 1912. Ron VE1AIC said that all that information was on display on the walls inside of the lighthouse. Brian VY2BG suggested perhaps setting up a webpage.

Brent VY2HF suggested purchasing the call sign VY2CBL specifically for use at the Cape Bear Lighthouse, as we would be able to use it long term. Bill VY2WM asked if the members were in favour of that idea, rather than applying for a special event call sign. The answer was a pretty unanimous yes. Bill will ask Cape Bear Lighthouse if they'd be interested in owning their own call sign. Joel VY2KW, Brent VY2HF, and Devin VY2DFG said that they would like to go thirds in paying for the call sign, if the Lighthouse approved the idea. The price of a call sign is \$60.

Charles VY2CE suggested asking the Lighthouse to purchase QSL cards.

Doug VY2DS said that Cape Bear Lighthouse is both a park for POTA as well as a lighthouse that can be activated. Brent VY2HF added that International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) was always held in the summer.

CARC Flea Market - July 27:

The main discussion centered around the entrance fee and the cost for vendors. Some members wanted to keep the entrance fee low at \$2 and focus on the social aspect. Others preferred a fee of \$5 as that would be more in line with other flea markets.

Doug VY2DS proposed the motion to raise the entrance fee for all (buyers and vendors) to \$5 and to include a free coffee or tea or water in the price. Vendors would still pay \$10 per table. The motion was seconded by Richard VY2RB. The majority was in favour, two opposed, motion carried.

Bill VY2WM asked about suggestions for door prizes. Michael VY2CO suggested Robin's or Tim's gift cards. Someone suggested a one-year RAC membership. Bill VY2WM suggested a bridge pass. Doug VY2DS said he would bring up door prizes at the next Summerside meeting. Maybe the Summerside club could donate \$100 towards them.

Ricardo VY2AN reported that the church had 11 tables. Bill VY2WM said that he could bring another 4 tables. Doug VY2DS said that he might be able to bring another 4 or 5 tables. Devin VY2DFG said he could perhaps bring some tables as well, and Brent VY2HF said he also had a table he could bring. Ricardo VY2AN said that the indoor space could probably accommodate a maximum of 20 tables.

Selina VY2OL asked if we would be having a 50:50 at the flea market. Bill VY2WM asked if we would need a licence for that. Ricardo VY2AN checked online and confirmed that we would indeed need a licence, but that it would be free of charge provided the prize was less than \$5,000.

Bill VY2WM postponed the discussion about food till the July meeting. Last year we had chili and rolls, plus some baked goods. Solomon VY2SK said that he could provide bottles of water. Michael VY2CO said that he had contacts at Robin's who he could ask about coffee prices.

High School Credits for Radio Exam:

Bill VY2LI reminded the club that it was nearly the end of the school year and that this might be a good time to reach out to the School Board about the accreditation of the radio licence exam as a high school credit. Bill VY2WM said that he would do it.

Buy and Sell on Discord:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that the channel on our Discord server that is currently called *#buy-sell-trade* was essentially meant as a marketplace for members to buy and sell equipment from and to each other (or trade with each other). It's not the right place to share good deals on Amazon for instance. Bill said he would open up a new separate channel for this purpose.

Bill VY2LI adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President