

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of March 5, 2024 meeting

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

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Bruce Maclean VY2BM

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Solomon Kappala VY2SK

Bill Glydon VY2LI

Aaron Boeker VY2EK

Tracey Allen VY2TAZ

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Michael Morrison VY2CO

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Andrew Jorgensen VY2HZ

Aaron Shelvey VY2DIY

George Meggison VY2GM

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Richard Burke VY2RB

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Charles Easter VY2CE

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Devin Garlick VY2DFG

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Mike McNeill VY2MG

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Omair Imitaz VY2PE

Maggie MacEachern VY2MMM

Arden Gallant VY2ALG

Dave Cosh VY2DAC

Brian Gorgeatt VY2BG

Sick and Silent Keys:

Michael VY2CO told the members that Dick Grantham VE1AI of Nova Scotia was in palliative care. He used to own R & S Electronics and also worked for Bell Aliant.

Bill VY2WM asked if anybody was aware of any silent keys. None known.

Announcements:

Michael VY2CO mentioned that he had received a very good offer from a cab driver if ever a group of us wanted to go to an event outside of Charlottetown or even off-island.

Bill VY2WM said he'd received a few emails from George VY2GF. One was about the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW), the other about the possibility of renting a bus to get to SMART24. Both items would be discussed in more detail later on, but essentially renting a bus would be too expensive to be an option.

Minutes of February 13, 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 Rick VY2WTF, seconded by Mike VY2MG to approve the minutes as circulated. All approved, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

President Report:

CBC news reporter from NB:

Bill VY2WM reminded 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. Last Bill heard the reporter had been put on another story. She also reached out to other clubs in the Maritimes.

Contact with Max from the Red Cross:

Bill VY2WM has been in contact with Max from the Red Cross about the possibility of using their facilities again for our next basic licensing course. We have received verbal confirmation but are still waiting on the formal sign-off.

Max also mentioned in his emails that he would like to set up the radio room at Red Cross HQ. It's missing an antenna and he's hoping we could help him with that. Bill VY2WM reminded Max that we would need the go-ahead from their radio manager Chris Vassey VY2CRV as well as George VY2GF before we could assist.

Omair VY2PE asked if we had ever personally extended an invitation to Max to attend the basic licensing course for free. Bill replied that he had not specifically asked Max, but that he had extended the invitation generally to all CRC employees. They would only need to pay for the book. Omair VY2PE said he would ask Max if he would be interested in taking the course.

Treasurer Report:

Charles VY2CE reported income from membership so far of \$440.00 from 19 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 24. Charles added that six additional members had paid their dues this very evening. Taken all together, so far we have 30 paid members plus 18 free members from the Fall 2023 course, giving us a total membership of 48 up to now.

Charles continued his report saying that there had been donations of \$30, giving a total income of \$470.00 up to the end of February.

Bank expenses up to the end of February were \$9.00 and office expenses came to \$132.06, giving a total of \$141.06 for expenses. Charles explained that the office expenses consisted of printouts for the exam runs and purchase of a receipt book. Bill VY2WM added that in the past Brent VY2HF and himself used to print all exam papers on their personal printers. With 23 pages per person that is quite an undertaking. It was therefore decided at a previous members' meeting to print out the exam papers at a printing store. They did two print runs at \$50 each. Brent VY2HF said that some exam printouts were still available for future exams.

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

Committee Reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that 13 individuals had recently shown interest in our basic licensing course. Brent has reached out twice so far and is pretty confident that 11 are definitely on board. With some of them being returning students, only six of them will need a book. As we have a prospective date of March 18 as our first class, Brent suggested we should order the books soon. Bill VY2WM said that there were still three books left over from the last course.

Brent said that he still had the access pass for the Red Cross building, assuming it'll work out with them. He also said that there were more instructors and assistants this time around, so the workload should be a lot less per instructor. If the first day is March 18, then the last day should be May 9, unless there is a snow day or other unforeseen event.

Brent continued explaining that March 18 would only be an introductory session. He said that Ricardo VY2AN had revamped some of the slides.

Regarding the exam recommendations for the basic exam made by the RAC committee, Brent said that these had now been sent to ISED. Any changes would not be implemented before 2025. Bill VY2WM asked if the book would need revising. Brent replied that some things such as the section on TV would need to be dropped, other things would only need tweaking. There would also be some new items such as a section on SDRs that would need adding. The main change would be to the exam format, e.g. there would no longer be any double negative questions.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by Rick VY2WTF to approve the purchase of six basic licensing study guides at \$50 each. All in favour, motion carried.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that the CRA repeater had handled the winter quite well. He said that things were still behind in Belfast, as the weather had not allowed him or Rick VY2WTF to finalize the setup. It's currently still in Rick's garage, from where it works quite well. In fact, both sides are working well, but don't have much traffic. Ron brings the Belfast repeater online for the nets. Once the weather is more favourable and it's less muddy, the plan is to get some brackets and finally mount the repeater.

Ron told the members that he had a verbal agreement with someone for a more north eastern location. If anybody knows of anywhere on the north side of eastern PEI, please let him know. Julia VY2JA mentioned that Fraser VY2FA and herself owned some land north of Souris. She is to send Ron the coordinates to check suitability.

Ron explained that generally the problem with getting repeater sites was a lot of red tape everywhere. If anybody has any contacts in government, please let him know.

Bill VY2WM asked if the Montague repeater was always on. Ron said yes because there were difficulties when it was disconnected and later reconnected. Ron also said that he didn't currently have a contact for the Montague site.

Omair VY2PE said that he had contacts at Campbell Cove Campground if that might be a suitable site.

Correspondence:

Julia VY2JA reported that Bill VY2WM had received an email from George VY2GF regarding the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) that is to take place August 17. For more information, this is the website about the event: <https://illw.net/>. Julia is to circulate the email to the membership.

Julia also mentioned that she'd received an email from the RAC regarding an upcoming solar eclipse research project open to Canadian radio amateurs. Julia will circulate the email to the membership.

New/Ongoing Business:

SPARC proposal for shared president membership:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that Doug VY2DS had made the suggestion to offer free cross-membership to the presidents of the CARC and the SPARC. At last month's meeting, the members seemed in favour of the idea. The Summerside club has already approved the motion to make the current CARC president a member of the Summerside club, free of charge and with full voting rights.

Omair VY2PE asked what the purpose of the free cross-membership would be. Bill replied that it would tie the two clubs together. The SPARC president would attend our meetings and our president would attend theirs. The Summerside meetings take place every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Charles VY2CE pointed out that we had RAC insurance that covers all full members, whereas the Summerside club did not. The question was raised whether the president of the SPARC

would have to be a full voting member. Ron VE1AIC suggested that he could be a non-voting honorary member.

Moved by Rick VY2WTF, seconded by Omair VY2PE to approve that the current president of the SPARC be an honorary non-voting member of the CARC. All in favour, motion carried.

Total Solar Eclipse:

Bill VY2WM said that based on last month's meeting there didn't seem to be much of an interest in organizing a formal club activity for the April 8 solar eclipse. It was therefore decided to organize things on a personal level. For that purpose, Bill will set up a Discord channel so that individual members can organize something if they want to.

Brian VY2BG said that thanks to Chris Vassey VY2CRV the astronomical society had received 50 solar glasses from the UPEI physics department. They're going to watch the solar eclipse from Mill River Resort from 9 AM to 5 PM. Anyone who'd like to join them, please reach out to Brian VY2BG.

Omair VY2PE said he'd purchased 50 B&H certified solar glasses that he would be happy to sell to the members. Omair is to send Julia VY2JA the details to circulate to the membership.

SMART24 Symposium:

Bill VY2WM said that he would open a Discord channel for SMART24 so that members can organize carpooling to NS. Apparently, Westcomb has a number of door prizes for Islanders as we have higher costs to attend. Bill said that last year William VY2CAW paid the entrance fee for the PEI EMO delegates.

Bill told the members that George VY2GF who was in charge of the presentation line-up had had the idea that some of the CARC's YL hams might be willing to give a presentation on the training and other activities to interest women. It would be interesting to hear what attracts women to the hobby. Bill added that for the past two years Therese VY2TAM had had a table at SMART specifically for YL. He said that he would be happy to help any volunteers with their presentation. Brian VY2BG said that there had always been women into radio and suggested that a ladies net might be a good idea. Bill VY2WM agreed.

Retivis offer:

Bill VY2WM reported that he'd written to Retivis to ask for more information but had not heard anything back yet.

Summer Field Day:

Bill VY2WM suggested forming a field day committee to organize the event. Aaron VY2EK suggested Ricardo VY2AN to lead such a committee. Ricardo accepted the role. It was decided that he would start by finding other members to join the committee.

Bill reminded members that Belfast had been previously mentioned as a possible site. He remembered that field day at Union Corner had been fun. There is something to be said for a field day camping experience - much more communal and social than a daytime-only event.

Information Exchange:

Bill VY2LI kindly gave a presentation on contest resources.

Bill VY2WM adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President