

The Tantramar

June, 2009

Westcumb Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



Next Meeting

Wed., June 3, 2009
E. D. Fullerton Bldg.
7:00 pm

Club Executive

President - Jim Langille, VE1JBL

V. President - Rob Ireland, VE9KM

Secretary - Ron Bickle, VE1BIC

Treasurer - Mike Embree, VE1MY

Publisher - Peter Hebb, VE1SM

W.A.R.C. Homepage - <http://www.westcumb.ca>

W.A.R.C. REGULAR MEETING – May 06, 2009.

The Meeting was brought to order at 7:02 p.m. with Vice-President Rob (VE9 KM) in the chair. Eighteen members were present. Introductions were made around the table.

Minutes From the Last Meeting:

The minutes from the April meeting were published in the Newsletter.

The minutes were approved.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Mike (VE1 MY).

Brad (VE1 ZX) gave a report on the ongoing sale of surplus repeaters.

It was moved/seconded by Peter (VE1 SM)/Lloyd (VA1 MAB) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Peter (VE1 SM) brought in a copy of the Halifax Reflector.

Ron (VE1 BIC) read a letter from the Town of Amherst about the upcoming Community Fair at the Amherst Stadium on Saturday June 06. He has reserved a table for the WARC in the same location as last year.

Jim (VE1 AFH) received a letter from the Municipality of Cumberland thanking the Club for assistance during the ice storm.

Mike (VE1 MY) made note of the passing of long-time Club member, Les Day (VE1 CEF) in British Columbia. A minute of silence was observed.

Jim (VE1 AFH) received a receipt from Springhill Senior High School for the \$200.00 Bursary to be presented there in June. There followed some discussion about the procedure for getting the Bursary money to the various schools.

Jim (VE1 CHI) reported he had discussed with President Jim (VE1 JBL) a letter the Club had received from a "VE4" Amateur who was requesting assistance with obtaining some used equipment. He said he had suggested sending a letter from the Club Executive outlining the WARC's position on this matter.

Field Day:

Lloyd (VA1 MAB) is now looking for more volunteers to operate the Club station during the 24-hour exercise to be held June 27-28, 2009. It will operate in Class 1F – EOC. Under that classification, the station must test its emergency equipment at some point.

Lloyd said he hoped the new vertical antenna would be ready by then, and possibly the long wire could be changed. The following have confirmed so far: Jim (VE1 AFH) food; Peter (VE1 SM) computer for the logging program; Terry (VE9 TER) operating CW early Sunday morning; Jerry (VE1 KW) will be there until midnight or 1:00 AM Sunday, but a couple of operators are needed for the overnight hours. Jim (VE1 CHI) will make sure the latest version of the logging program is ready to go.

Rob (VE9 KM) suggested reviewing the checklist for any possible bonus points.
Jim (VE1 AFH) said he would include the event in the next County Newsletter.

Education:

Jim (VE1 AFH) again discussed the WARC putting on a scaled-down basic course in the fall. The Industry Canada question bank would be used, with Club members taking turns explaining that block to any persons interested in taking their Basic Qualification. Jim said if about seven volunteers each take a section, each could give one night of instruction. He said it is quite easy for beginners to simply memorize the answers, but we, as a Club, should be able to explain to them why the answer "is what it is". He said we could start publicizing the course in later August or in September. Rob (VE9 KM) suggested the Club purchase the RAC disk containing lesson plans available for about \$20.00. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Club would purchase the disk. Jim (VE1 AFH) said there was no time in May to have the Emergency Telecommunications Course, but perhaps one could be held in October.

Publicity:

Ron (VE1 BIC) said he was planning on doing a newspaper article about upcoming activities around the end of May. He also suggested the WARC could enter a float in the Gathering of the Clans parade in Pugwash this year. He had noticed the Club had done that in its early years. Lloyd (VA1 MAB) noted that the Town of Amherst was planning a full week of activities in the downtown area this summer.

Public Service:

Nothing to report.

Newsletter

Peter (VE1 SM) said everything was running OK. He was currently running off 18 printed copies, with 15 being distributed and 3 spares. The rest of the members get theirs from the Website.

Web page

Jim (VE1 CHI) reported the temporary site was working quite well, and actually loads faster due to reduced content. The photo thumbnails are a bit larger, as the links to the full size photos are not working on the temporary site. He has yet to get an update from the IT person at the County about when the full site will be back up. He was also thinking of separating the OTC site from the WARC site at some point. As of May 06, there have been 537 hits since February. Jim noted that a hacker from Amsterdam had caused some problems for the Halifax website. Jim (VE1 AFH) suggested that since the WARC was doing so much, that perhaps a year end review might be a good feature for the website.

Ron (VE1 BIC) suggested also doing up a PowerPoint presentation for the December Potluck meeting.

Rob (VE9 KM) said the year end review could be sent out as a .pdf file in January.

E.M.O:

Jim (VE1 AFH) reported that the local EMO was at this point just monitoring the H1N1 virus outbreak, which was at Level 5. They would be taking their direction from the Department of Health

on the matter. He said all the planning now in place in Cumberland County had been taken care of 3-4 years ago. Jim said that in dealing with current situation, the EMO would be better prepared for any larger outbreak in the fall. Jim (VE1 CHI) noted that the CBC had reported that someone taking “Tamiflu” actually came down with more serious side effects. Russ (VE1 AFL) said he remembered that people affected by the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1918 had actually developed advanced immunity, and lived much longer lives in some cases. Jim (VE1 AFH) said the EMO had ordered five new power supplies for the new VHF radios, and new “Pelican” cases to be used as Go-Boxes. This way, all necessary supplies would be ready to go. He has also ordered a new TMR radio for himself, so Bob (VE1 EDP) would be able to use the current one. Jim also said the new vertical antenna should be ready for Field Day, if they can get the radials installed. Jim had also brought in a number of surplus low-profile Motorola VHF antennas to be given away after the meeting. Jim said they were gearing up for the proposed repeater for the Springhill Hospital.

The roof antenna was in place, the Town of Springhill was supplying the cavities, and the County was providing the controller. He said as part of a planning committee involving all hospitals in Nova Scotia, he had demonstrated how the repeater system would work and suggested that the radio system be implemented in all hospitals.

He said Kentville had expressed interest in joining by this September.

N.S.A.R.A:

Jin (VE1 AFH) said there was still no date or location set for the summer picnic, but they would be discussing it at the next Fleamarket.

Net:

Rick (VE9 RWS) said the Net was going well with no complaints.

Repeaters:

Brad (VE1 ZX) reported the IRLP was now back up and running on the WRC repeater.

President’s Report:

Jim (VE1 JBL) was not present. No report.

Unfinished Business:

Bob (VE1 EDP) brought up the ongoing problems plaguing the packet system in the EMO radio room, and suggested putting Winpack on one of the computers as a backup, and also having some kind of “operating manual” written up.

After some discussion, it was decided that Bob and Kevin (VE1 KEV) will do a walk-through of the packet system following the meeting.

Rob (VE9 KM) gave a follow-up on the possibility of the WARC setting up a station for a “World Heritage Day” event. He said the 2009 date had already passed, on April 18, and in fact, the event had been renamed “International Day for Monuments and Sites” which encourages celebration of World Heritage Sites. Rob said there are 15 sites across Canada and perhaps the Club could look at doing something next year. He mentioned there could be “twinning” opportunities.

Jim (VE1 AFH) noted that some sites, such as Signal Hill in Newfoundland, already had stations set up.

New Business:

Bob (VE1 EDP) asked if any member attending the Halifax Fleamarket would be able to take along and sell the excess equipment donated to the Club by Johnny (VE1 JJC). If nobody had room, or the time to set up the equipment, then it would have to be put in storage.

Rob (VE9 KM) said he would contact Jim (VE1 JBL) to see if he could handle it.

Jim (VE1 CHI) said a new brochure was being prepared for the OTC.

Social:

The May brunch will be held on the 16th, at the Harbourview restaurant in Parrsboro.

There will be no Brunches in June, July or August.

Sick and Visiting:

It was reported that Bruce (VE1 ABC) was still in the hospital, but was “holding his own”

Lunch for the June 2009 meeting:**Sweets – Rob (VE9 KM)****Sandwiches –Irene (VE1 CF)**

The 50-50 (\$16.00) was won by Jerry (VE1 KW)

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 03, 2009 at 7:00 at the Cumberland County Municipal Building.

Adjournment: at 8:33 p.m. Ron Bickle (VE1 BIC) Secretary.

Notes

Moncton Flea Market – On the 2nd of May, The Tri-County ARC hosted a flea market at the Mapleton Rotary Lodge. The flea market took place in conjunction with a CANWARN training course. I did not attend this event as I had other things to do that day, but I've heard that it was a pretty good event.

Halifax Flea Market – The date this year was May 9th and it was held in the same building as before, but the Bingo hall was used instead of the main lobby. A bit smaller, perhaps, but still plenty of room for everyone. There was a good turn out of people. A big change this year was there were no dealers, which made things a little different. All in all I think it was a success. Look in on our web site for some photos that were taken by Jim, VE1CHI, Brad, VE1ZX or others.

Brunch – Our brunch for May was held at the Harbourview Restaurant in Parrsboro on the 16th at the regular time of 11:00 am. There was an excellent turn out for this time of year with 20 people attending. The food and service were excellent. Our next brunch won't be until September, as we do not have one in June or during the summer months. The location and date will be determined at our June meeting.

Condolences – Our condolences go out to Gerry Gallant and family on the sudden death of her son Hugh who passed away on May 16 at the age of 52. His father was the late Frank Gallant, VE1IH who was one of the original members of our club.

Bruce Smith, VE1ABC became a silent key on May, 26. His funeral was held at Campell's Funeral Home on May 29th. At 2:30 pm. Bruce also was a long term member of our club. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Gayle and to his brother, Lloyd, VA1MAB and family. Gayle is not in good health herself and is at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre in Amherst.

Birthdays

June 1 – Lloyd Smith, VA1MAB	July 3 – Abbie Ross, VE1BFB6
4 – Richard Sullivan, VE9RWS	13 – Pat Hughes, VE9PH
8 – Jim Perry, VE1JSP	14 – Rob Ireland, VE9KM
12 – Bruce Sears, VE1VH	17 – Al Christie, VE1ZS
13 – Tery Craig, VE9TER	29 – John Colson, VE1JJC
17 – Bill Anderson, VE9UH	29 – Odette Gibbons
22 – Mike Masters, VE1XTD	

Aug. 7 – Irene Wheaton, VE1CF
24 – Gerry Hannah, VE1KW
26 – Wanda Bickle
28 – Faye Haley

Anniversaries

June 24 – Ron Bickle, VE1BIC & Wanda – 1989
26 – Glenn Wallis, VE1GK & Crystal, VE1XTL – 1965
27 – Jim Perry, VE1JSP & Eleanor – 1970
30 – Mike Embree, VE1MY & Marlene – 1979
30 – Cliff Rose, VE1CBR & Joanne – 1990

July 24 – Gaius Dobson, VE1AVV & Darlene – 1982

Aug. 3 – Bill Wheaton, VE1CFK & Irene, VE1CF – 1943
12 – Jim Langille, VE1JBL & Wendy – 2006

Funny Stuff

Three gentlemen met in an airport waiting room while waiting for their flight. After a bit of general conversation, the subject of occupations was brought up. The first man said: “Well gentlemen, I'm a member of what you might call the oldest profession. I'm a clergyman.” “I think you're wrong there Reverend”, said the second man. “The first words in the good book say that 'Order was created out of chaos', that would be an engineering proposition so I'd say that I belong to the oldest profession.” Said the third man “ I think I've got you both beat. I'm a politician. Who do you think created all the chaos in the first place?”

Saint Peter was interviewing two men who were applying for admission into Heaven. Saint Peter asked the first man what he'd done while on earth and the man replied that he had been a minister for forty years doing the work of the Lord. Then Saint Peter asked the second man the same question and he replied that for the last eight years of his life he'd been a bus driver. Saint Peter reviewed their records and then told the bus driver that he was accepted. After a delay of almost a half hour, the minister was then told that he too was accepted. At that, the frustrated minister said, “Saint Peter, how is it that I spent forty years of my life on earth doing the work of the Lord and yet you keep me waiting a half hour longer than the other man whose only qualifications was that he drove a bus for eight years?” Saint Peter replied, “Well Reverend, my records show that in his eight years as a bus driver, he scared the Hell out of far more people than you did in your forty years as a minister!”

Kitchen Korner

Banana Butterscotch Muffins

2 cups flour	½ cup butter
½ tsp salt	1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp baking soda	2 large eggs
1 cup butterscotch chips	3 large over-ripe bananas

Preheat oven to 350 Deg F. Mix together flour, salt & baking soda in large bowl and stir in butterscotch chips. Cream together butter and brown sugar then beat in eggs. Mash bananas and add butter & egg mixture. Combine dry & moist mixtures together, and stir until batter is evenly moist. Do not over mix. Spray cups of muffin tin with non stick cooking spray and fill evenly with batter. Bake muffins for 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool before removing from pan

Upcoming Events

June 3 - W.A.R.C. meeting – E. D. Fullerton Bldg. - 7:00 pm

6 – Amherst Community Fair – Amherst Stadium - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

27 – 28 – Field Day – E.D. Fullerton Bldg. - 3:00 pm Saturday until 3:00 pm Sunday

July 11 – Summerside Flea Market – Wilmot Community Centre – 9:30am - \$5.00 (includes breakfast)

Aug. 6 – 8 - 6th Annual Maritime DX Forum – Rosaria Centre, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, N.S.

Sept. 2 – W.A.R.C. Annual & general meeting – E. D. Fullerton Bldg. - 7:00 pm

12 – Most likely date for our brunch

19 – Shediac, N.B. Fleamarket



One of the pictures of our Brunch at The Harbourview Restaurant on May 16th taken by Lorne Anderson, VE1BXX.