

# The Tantramar

Feb. , 2012

## Westcumb Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



### Next Meeting

Wed., Feb. 1, 2012  
E. D. Fullerton Bldg.  
7:00 pm

## Club Executive

**President - Jim Langille - VE1JBL**

**V. President - Mike Embree, VE1MY**

**Secretary - Ron Bickle, VE1BIC**

**Treasurer - Kevin Burke, VE1KEV**

**Publisher - Peter Hebb, VE1SM**

**W.A.R.C. website - <http://westcumb.ca>**

**Alternate website - <http://www.byethost5.com>**

## **W.A.R.C. REGULAR MEETING – January 04, 2012.**

The Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. with President Jim (VE1 JBL) in the chair. Nineteen members were present. Introductions were made around the table. New member Bernie (VE9 BGC) was welcomed.

### **Minutes From the Last Meeting:**

The minutes from the January 2012 regular meeting were posted on the WARC website prior to the meeting. They were not done in time for the January Newsletter.

There was one correction. “Exercise Disclosure” – a Provincial EMO exercise – will be on January 28, 2012 [not January 23]

Moved/Seconded by Ron (VE1 BIC)/Jim (VE1 CHI) that the minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

The December 2011 meeting had only one item. It was moved/seconded by Brad (VE1 ZX)/Glenn (VE1 GK) that all Club business be moved to the January meeting. Minutes of that meeting will be compiled by Jim (VE1 CHI).

### **Business Arising From the Minutes:**

Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Kevin (VE1 KEV).

It was moved/seconded by Kevin (VE1 KEV)/Peter (VE1 SM) that the Treasurers Report be accepted. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence:**

Mike (VE1 MY) received an reminder from Dave Nimmo (VE1 NN) that the deadline for changes to the HARC Callbook is January 31, 2012.

Jim (VE1 JBL) noted that Amateurs using “RAC” email addresses will find their address was cancelled, unless they were paid-up RAC members.

Jim (VE1 CHI) still needs a receipt for the RAC “Affiliation” form.

### **Field Day:**

Jim (VE1 CHI) noted that Field Day results were in the November QST, but as he does not receive the magazine, we would have to get them via Rob (VE9 KM).

### **Education:**

Jerry (VE1 KW) provided further details on the “Saltwater Antennas” used by the military. He quoted an article in “The Economist” called “Liquid Radio”.

Bernie (VE9 BGC) added some technical details.

### **Publicity:**

Ron (VE1 BIC) had been airing a PSA [public service announcement] about the January meeting over CFTA-FM 107.9.

**Public Service:**

Peter (VE1 SM) reported that he had been Net Control for the Red Cross Net the previous week. There had only been two check-ins on TMR. Jon (VE1 JSG) had been in to observe.

**Newsletter:**

Peter (VE1 SM) made a correction about "Exercise Handshake" on December 27th. It had said: "we had xx people taking part" - which should have said "we had 6 operators taking part". Ron (VE1 BIC) apologized for not getting the November Minutes done in time for the January Newsletter. He suggested that Peter could revise the Newsletter to include the minutes, and re-post it.

**Web page:**

Jim (VE1 CHI) reported no major problems, except for a few broken links. Jim said he had to re-install the program. He said the website has performed well since being switched over to "hfradio.net". There have been 13,891 hits since February 28, 2009. It averages 13.4 hits per day. You can click on "get stats" to check this activity.

**E.M.O.:**

Jim (VE1 AFH) was absent.

Jim (VE1 JBL) gave some further details on "Exercise Disclosure" – a Provincial exercise on Saturday January 28, 2012 [correct date] from 10 am to noon. He said it would involve Communications NS, the NSARA and other agencies. The scenario is that "the TMR system is down". There will be a timed message from various participants. They are hoping to get EMO's from every county in Nova Scotia. Thirteen of eighteen have so far responded. A message has been sent by 'snail mail' to all operators taking part. Jim said they would be linking up via NAVCOM.

**N.S.A.R.A.:**

Jim (VE1 AFH) was absent.

Brad (VE1 ZX) said they would be discussing this year's Hamfest at the next meeting.

**President's Report:**

Jim (VE1 JBL) noted that the next "Exercise handshake" on January 31<sup>st</sup> would be an "At Home" exercise, in order to see what might happen if the County Office was unavailable.

**Net:**

Mike (VE1 XDT) reported that the Monday Night Net was running OK, but things were rather slow on Boxing Day. Glenn (VE1 GK) had done the last Net, and it was "very orderly". Bob (VA1 SBT) is doing the next one. The Net Control schedule for the next few months has been compiled. Mike said he will try to contact the Net Controller the day before, to verify that they will be ready to go.

Jim (VE1 CHI) suggested posting the schedule on the Club Website.

**Repeaters:**

Brad (VE1 ZX) reported that he and Lorne (VE1 BXK) had visited the Salem site in December,

to check on a duplexer. He is still awaiting word from NSARA and the NS Government on the link to NAVCOM.

The packet system at Nuttby had been checked, an antenna had been changed, and they had worked on the IRLP box. He said Ron (VE1 AIC) thinks it might be a firewall issue at the County Office.

Jim (VE1 JBL) asked about using his base rig on UHF to get into the repeaters. Brad said it would not cause a problem.

Jerry (VE1 KW) suggested the WARC make a contribution to Brad and Lorne to help with travel expenses.

### **Hints and Kinks:**

Jerry (VE1 KW) gave a brief presentation on splicing coax. He noted that it is sometimes hard to find RG58 or RG59 with connectors, but he has found that truck stops carry CB radio cables that could be used.

Jim (VE1 CHI) noted that he has used 'liquid electrical tape' which is available from RV dealers. Al (VE1 ZS) said it could also be found at Canadian Tire.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Jim (VE1 JB) asked the Treasurer if the cheque for the CNIB donation had been issued. Kevin (VE1 KEV) said it was being handled.

### **New Business:**

Brad (VE1 ZX) listed some items that would have to be purchased for the Salem repeater site, in order to bring it up to industry standards. He said we need a good power bar, lightning arrestors, and a DC breakout box.

It was moved/seconded by Ron (VE1 BIC)/Kevin (VE1 KEV) that the items be purchased, up to a maximum of \$200.00. Motion carried.

### **Social:**

The next Club Brunch will be on January 21st, at the West Winds restaurant in West Amherst, at Exit 3.

The February 2012 Brunch will be at Patterson's Restaurant in Sackville, on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lunch for the February 2012 meeting:**

Sweets – Mike (VE1 XDT) Sandwiches – Randy (VE1 ADV)

The 50-50 (\$17.50) was won by Lloyd (VA1 MAB).

The \$20.00 gift certificate from "The Source" was won by Bill (VE9 UH).

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, February 01, 2012 at 7:00 at the Cumberland County Municipal Building, Lower Level.

**Adjournment: at 8:12 pm.**

The meeting was followed by a presentation on antennas by Bernie (VE9 BGC).

## **Ron Bickle (VE1 BIC) Secretary**

### **Notes**

Ron Bickle's mother, Hazel passed away on the 6th of Jan., 2012. Her funeral was held at St. Andrews- Wesley United Church in Springhill on the 8<sup>th</sup>. She will be sadly missed by her husband, Brian and other family members and friends.

Doug Hyslip, VE9IZ passed away in the Amherst Hospital on the 10<sup>th</sup>. His funeral took place at Campbell's Funeral Home on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Doug lived in Moncton, N.B. for the last few years until his daughter made arrangements for him to go to White Birches Nursing Home in Amherst in the fall of 2011. He became ill and was taken to the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre where he passed. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

**Brunch** – Our January brunch was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> from The West Winds Restaurant in Amherst, N.S. The weather was not perfect, but the roads were fairly good. We had 24 people in attendance – It was nice to see Bruce, VE1II and his friend, Mike, VE1MBH from Truro there as well as Jim Cleveland, VE1CHI & Nancy.

**Exercise Handshake** – This will take place on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The exercise format will change. The exercise will take place from people's homes. It was decided to give this a try in case in the future a storm or other event prevents us from obtaining access to our main radio room. A list of available operators was drawn up at our last meeting and each one was given a different mode. For example – Randy, VE1ADV will operate the TMR from the local Fire Dept. in Advocate, various others will operate HF, VHF, packet, and IRLP as well as echolink. This way we should be able to maintain the same functions as if it was held at our radio room.

### **RAC as a Public Service?**

(reprinted from the RAC Report -December 2011 by Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW – RAC President)

I was told by an irate non-member that RAC was a public service and we were obligated to provide free services to all Canadian Amateurs including the Outgoing QSL Bureau (and postage to [not within] provinces for the Incoming Bureau), RAC email Alias and Bulletin Services.

My question to him is: Why should RAC members and volunteers provide services to non-RAC members? RAC is a non-profit corporation established to further the interests of Amateur

Radio. It is funded by membership fees and the hidden subsidies (time and money) of volunteers.

Where RAC advocates for spectrum protection and expansion, all Amateurs benefit whether they are members or not. Where services are provided, members can no longer pay to support non-members. RAC is not a public service. It receives no public money. It is funded 100% by members.

(Well put, Geoff! If you, the WARC Member, have been considering joining RAC, please go ahead and join our only National Organization which represents the interests of Amateurs and fights to maintain the frequencies we often take for granted. TCA (The Canadian Amateur Magazine) has greatly improved over the past number of years and always contains articles and reports of interest to the Amateur community. NOW is the time to show your support for RAC and also help to support your club, the WARC, by helping to keep our insurance costs lower. With a strong national organization, we have a bigger voice at international meetings such as the IARU. Joining RAC is not difficult to do or really very expensive and you will be helping two organizations in the process as well as receiving an interesting magazine in the mail and helping to maintain the Amateur bands that commercial interests are constantly pressing to have as their own. To a certain degree, you are responsible for helping to preserve what we already have in our hobby. Please act now to join RAC. ~VE1CHI, Jim C.)

### **Birthdays**

Jan. 2 – Rod Bird, VE1ROD  
4 – Joan Cant  
22 – Darlene Dobson  
24 – Marlene Embree  
29 – Wendy Langille

Feb. 7 – Sheila-Jane Milner  
9 – Carol Hannon, VE1RCH  
10 – Gloria Estabrooks  
13 – Randy Elliott, VE1ADV  
16 – Kay Hannah, VE1YH

### **Anniversaries**

No anniversaries for January

Feb. 4 – Peter Hebb, VE1SM & Treva – 1978

### **Upcoming Events**

Feb. 1 – W.A.R.C. meeting – E. D. Fullerton Bldg. – 7:00 pm  
18 – Brunch – Patterson's Restaurant – Sackville, N.B. – 11:00 am  
28 – Exercise Handshake – E. D. Fullerton Bldg. – 7:00 pm

March 7 – W.A.R.C. meeting – E. D. Fullerton Bldg. – 7:00 pm

## **Kitchen Korner**

### **Chicken Corn Soup**

1 3 ½ lb. whole chicken, cut up	1 tsp pepper
3 quarts water	1 (5 oz.) pkg. wide egg noodles
2 stalks celery, chopped	2 ½ cups whole kernel corn
1 large onion, sliced	2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
1 tbsp. salt	1tbsp. parsley

Cover chicken with water in a large kettle. Add celery, onion, salt & pepper. Bring to boil. Reduce heat & cover. Simmer for 2 hours. Remove chicken from broth. Separate meat from bone. Skin & chop meat. Strain broth, & return chicken to broth. Bring to a boil. Add noodles & corn & cook until noodles are tender. Add chopped egg & parsley.

### **Molasses Cookies**

¼ cup butter	½ tsp. vanilla
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ cup dark molasses	½ tsp. cloves
1 egg	½ tsp. ginger
2 cups flour	½ tsp. salt
2 tsp. baking soda	

Combine butter with sugar. Add molasses & egg. Add remaining ingredients except flour. Beat for 30 second. Stir in flour and beat for 1 minute. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheets, and bake for 10 – 12 minutes at 375 deg. F until edges begin to brown lightly. Let cool & store in airtight tins.

## **Funny Stuff**

Barrack Obama and Sarah Palin were sitting by each other on a plane. Obama thinking Palin was an Alaskan redneck thought he could make some easy money by tricking her into playing a game.

He told her," If I ask you a question, and you don't know it, then you pay me five dollars. If I don't know one of your questions, I'll pay you FIVE HUNDRED dollars.

Palin agreed and Obama began the game by asking, "How many miles is it from the Sun to Jupiter?"

Then Palin asked Obama, "What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?"

After long hours of researching and consulting everyone he knew... he finally gave up and paid the five hundred dollars to Palin.

Then Obama asked, "So...what's the answer. What goes up the hill with three legs and comes down with four?"

Palin handed him five dollars. :)

A programmer was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess."

He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week."

The programmer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you and do anything you want." Again the programmer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess that I'll stay with you for a week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The programmer said, "Look, I'm a programmer. I don't have time for a girlfriend -- but a talking frog, now that's cool!"