

WARC REGULAR MEETING – April 12, 2022

The April 2022 Regular Meeting was brought to order at 7:02 p.m. via Google Meet with President Kevin VE1KEV as chair.

24 members and one guest participated including Jim VE1JBL, Bill VA1BIL, Brad VE1ZX, Dana VE1VOX, Eric VE1JW, George VY2GF, Joe VY2JC, Ken VE1UF, Kevin VE1KEV, Lorne VE1BXX, Matt VA1MRT, Mike VE1MWJ, Mike VE1MY, James VE9WIN, Peter VE1WIN, Pravin VE9PKV, Robert VE1RMJ, Ron VE1BIC, Scott VE1CHL, Steve VE1SV, Terry VE1AS, Tom VE1TWH, Mike VE1ZB, Borden VA1CBC and guest Frank VE1FSM. Regrets; Steve VE1OR.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved. Moved/seconded by Ron VE1BIC/Peter VE1WIN.

Minutes from the Last Meeting:

The minutes from the March, 2022 regular meeting were posted on the Website and circulated by email. It was moved/seconded by Ron VE1BIC/Mike VE1MWJ that the minutes be approved. **Motion carried.**

Business Arising From the Minutes:

Jim VE1JBL reported that the 2022 Bursary check sent to Springhill High School had been cashed, and a thank you received. As suggested by Jon VE1JSG during the March meeting, a donation of \$100.00 had been made to the Red Cross to help with their efforts in Ukraine.

New Business:

Allen Ramsay VE1GAR from Amherst has asked to have someone from the club help him set up his ICOM 7300 radio. Kevin VE1KEV will work with Frank VE1FSM to help Allen get his station on the air.

Several HF radios and other equipment no longer being used by another local amateur now in hospital will be collected by the club and sold on the website.

Lorne VE1BXX gave an update on repairs to one of the club's V-8000 radios. A mic cable had been damaged, and the speaker in the control head was damaged. It will be used by Kevin VE1 KEV for Exercise Handshake and Net control duties. Lorne has plans to replace some older UHF link radios with some newer model Motorola radios donated by Steve Orr VE1OR. Lorne gave a list of parts required to make up some new connector cables, which will cost about \$120.00. Mike VE1MWJ asked about decommissioning the older radios, and Lorne said he would have to check his inventory lists.

George VY2GF reported that Jeff K1ZM/VY2ZM, an amateur on PEI wants to sell his house, but there are several large towers on the property that will have to be taken down. Mike VE1MWJ has offered to work with George and Joe VY2JC to do an inventory of the site.

Rob VE1RMJ gave an update on the MESH project, which has been placed on hold for several months. He is hoping to do some testing in the coming weeks, and may be setting up another virtual meeting to discuss some potential sites.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim VE1JBL presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved/seconded by Jim VE1JBL/Bill VA1BIL that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Jim had been in contact with David Mitchell VE1KR of Brookdale about getting back on the air.

Field Day:

Nothing to report.

Publicity:

Ron VE1BIC will try to arrange some publicity for the upcoming S.M.A.R.T. Symposium on April 30, which looks like it may be going ahead this year after a two-year hiatus.

Public Service:

Kevin VE1KEV will be looking for volunteers to help with radio communications during the “Run for the Sun” 5K 10K and half-marathon races being put on by the Cumberland Y Service Club on Saturday June 25. Local amateurs will monitor the event from different locations throughout the race.

Web page:

Nothing to report.

E.M.O:

Mike VE1MWJ gave an update to ongoing changes with the local EMO organization. There is still a lot of equipment in the County Building, and the new Director of Protective Services (Bill Ireland) is interested in having amateurs continue to be available for backup communications. He is also looking into making space available in the building for club meetings in the fall.

N.S.A.R.A:

Jim VE1 JBL has been in contact with Tom Cohoon VE1TA and Shirley VE1JFG about setting up a table at the upcoming S.M.A.R.T. symposium.

President's Report:

Nothing to report.

Nets:

Mike VE1ZB said the nets were doing well, although numbers are dropping as we head into spring. The recent Monday Night Net had 30 check-ins and the Wake Up Net had over 40.

Repeaters:

Brad VE1ZX reported that VE1BHS at Sugarloaf had been off the air, due to ice damage to the transmit antenna. They had been switched to the top antenna for a short time, but the site was now back to normal. There is still a lot of snow up there. A new computer and link radios will be added when they can access the site. Lorne VE1BXX gave an update on some new equipment that had been repurposed from NS Power and Ground Search & Rescue. Lorne said there was still interference on the input side at Sand river, but it is not an RF signal. It is more like noise from a switching power supply. When he has the updated cable for the link radio he will be able to use CTSS.

Unfinished Business:

S.M.A.R.T. 2022 being planned for April 30 in Springhill. Jim VE1JBL noted that COVID is still around, and they were still debating what to do. They don't want to see the event become an "incubator." There will still be some restrictions, due to the attendees being from a group that is more vulnerable. They will be watching things carefully for the next couple of weeks. George VY2GF noted that PEI had extended the mask mandate above and beyond what the law requires. They had discussed perhaps not using the smaller classroom. Ron VE1BIC suggested setting up a small FM transmitter for those who chose to remain in their vehicles in the

parking lot of the Community Centre. Mike VE1ZB said COVID was not a simple thing to go through. George added that you can “take all the precautions in the world and people are still going to get it.” Kevin VE1KEV noted that people know that COVID is going to be here for a long time, and other events are going forward. Rob VE1RMJ suggested if we used the smaller classroom with smaller groups, the presenters could be asked to give their presentation twice. Otherwise we may have to drop a class or two. Jim VE1JBL said none of the presenters had dropped out so far. Tom VE1TWH suggested we could make the presentations available on YouTube either on a live stream or recorded and made available later. Ron VE1BIC volunteered to help with the recordings. Jim VE1JBL said there may be a waiting list for attendees if all spaces are taken. Rob VE1RMJ asked if wearing a mask was not required for the presenters during a class. George said it would be optional, and he will inform the presenters.

Hints & Kinks:

Nothing to report.

Technical & Operating Information:

Kevin VE1KEV noted that there was still interference on the Amherst analog repeater when the digital repeater was being used at the same time.

Sick & Visiting:

Nothing to report.

Social:

Nothing to report.

Next Meeting

Tuesday May 10 2022 at 7 pm via Google Meet

Adjournment: 8:49 pm.

Ron Bickle VE1BIC Secretary