

## WARC REGULAR MEETING – January 11, 2022

The January 2022 Regular Meeting was brought to order at 7:06 p.m. via Google Meet with President Kevin VE1KEV as chair.

24 members participating including: Steve VE1OR, Mike VE1MY, Brad VE1ZX, Scott VE1CHL, Ron VE1BIC, Jim VE1JBL, Kevin VE1KEV, Eric VE1JW, Gordon VE9GC, Joe VY2JC, George VY2GF, Bordon VA1CBC, Pravin VE9PKV, Lorne VE1BXK, Dave VE1DEH, J.P. VE9ADV, Mike VE1ZB, Steve VE1SV, Jon VE1JSG, David VE9DWJ, Terry VE1AS, Matt VA1MRT, Robert VE1RMJ and Tom VE1TWH.

**The Agenda** for the meeting was approved.

### **Minutes from the Last Meeting:**

The minutes from the December, 2021 regular meeting were posted on the Website and circulated by email. It was moved/seconded by Ron VE1BIC/Peter WIN that the minutes be approved. **Motion carried.**

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

Mike VE1ZB opened the discussion about the possibility of one of the Moncton repeaters (VE9SHM) being hard-linked to VE1SPH in Springhill. Mike said he had discussed the concept with Cam VE9CAM, and noted that we have a lot of WARC members in Southeast New Brunswick and in Cumberland County who are connected to the Moncton club, and it would generate more activity on the repeaters here. Mike said the MAARC did discuss it in December. The original plan was to use VE1SPH which has little activity, but there were challenges in setting up a link to VE9SHM. Lorne VE1BXK proposed an alternative would be to link VE9SHM to VE1SPR on Lynn Mountain, which already had link radios to VE9SHM through the hub, and would only require reprogramming the controller from start to finish. It would require isolating Port 3 from the rest of the ports when on MAVCOM. This will first require testing off-site, and then a trip to the VE1SPR site. Mike noted that it would give us more redundancy in emergencies.

Lorne said he had emailed Cam about it last year, noting that there are quite a few nets on the VE9SHM repeater. He said if this goes ahead, VE1SPR and VE9SHM would be hard-linked, unless a code was entered to Salem or Sand River, or if a station wanted to connect to MAVCOM, then the hard link would drop, and would automatically re-connect later. Mike said the Moncton hams wanted to be more active on the nets here. Lorne said there is a diagram on the WARC website. Kevin VE1KEV suggested Cam run it by his people to find out if they are in favour of the project, and go from there.

**New Business:**

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jim VE1JBL presented the Treasurer's Report. He noted that the cost of the Club insurance had doubled, due to the fact that many members are not RAC members. It was moved/seconded by Jim VE1JBL/Mike VE1ZB that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

**Correspondence:**

Nothing to report.

**Field Day:**

Nothing to report.

**Publicity:**

Ron VE1BIC said they were still mentioning on the air on 107.9 that more study guides are for sale at the CFTA studios at 80 Church Street in Amherst.

**Public Service:**

Ron VE1BIC said CFTA had been mentioning the communications backup provided by Amateur Radio Operators during storms and other times regular communications were disrupted.

**Web page:**

Nothing to report.

**E.M.O:**

Nothing to report.

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

Jim VE1JBL reported he had paid the NSARA one-half of the dues collected since September as it was the easiest method. It was mentioned in the Treasurer's report.

**President's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Net:**

Mike VE1ZB said the Monday night Net was doing well, with between 35 and 40 check-ins. He noted that there are more non-members than WARC members participating. There are five Net Controllers.

## **Repeaters:**

Brad VE1ZX reported that he and Lorne VE1BKK had been to VE1BHS a couple of weeks ago to look at the DVR. The WAV files had stopped working. They have still not been to VE1SDR. Brad said everything was working, but there was some static on all repeaters.

## **Unfinished Business:**

Kevin VE1KEV gave an update on plans for S.M.A.R.T. 2022 that is being planned for the end of April. He said George VY2GF had sent out a bulletin to all clubs in the Maritimes. They are still looking for someone to do a presentation on wire antennas and chokes and baluns. We will have to see how the Pandemic plays out, and there are always concerns when you hold a large gathering and rules are not followed. If we were required to ask for vaccination passports it would also mean having security personnel at the door checking for QR codes. Kevin said as much as we would like to hold the symposium, we really don't know what will be happening in four month's time, and do we really want to take on all that responsibility. He suggested we let it ride until March, and look at it then. Jim VE1JBL noted that we are not a professional group, and we may just cancel for 2022 and try again next year. He added we could try having on-line classes. The issue of insurance was also discussed. Mike VE1ZB said it is not just a matter of having insurance, you have to follow the government's regulations that are in place. He noted that they had done a forestry meeting on-line last year and it had gone very well. Participants paid a fee. Rob VE1RMJ said if we went that route for S.M.A.R.T. there are programs with "virtual rooms" that are better than Zoom. Google Meet has a limit of 100 participants. He said if we go that route, the presenters would need to have the proper software. Ron VE1BIC said having proper audio is a big part of it. Many on-line meetings have bad audio, and it is quite easy to hook up a quality microphone. Jon VE1JSG wondered if we should move the symposium to May. Jim VE1JBL said anytime would work. If things improve dramatically later in the spring we could even hold it in the summer.

**Hints & Kinks:**

Nothing to report

**Technical & Operating Information:**

George VY2GF said they were working on a situation in Charlottetown where an individual in an apartment was looking at setting up a remote HF station. Rob VE1RMJ said there were several “Raspberry Pi” projects on YouTube.

**Sick & Visiting:**

Nothing to report.

**Social:**

Nothing to report.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday February 8th, 2022 at 7 pm via Google Meet

Adjournment: 8:04 pm.

Ron Bickle VE1BIC Secretary