

WARC REGULAR MEETING – March 08, 2022

The March 2022 Regular Meeting was brought to order at 7:05 p.m. via Google Meet with President Kevin VE1KEV as chair.

26 members participated including: Jim VE1JBL, Robert VE1RMJ, Ron VE1BIC, Kevin VE1KEV, Mike VE1ZB, Scott VE1CHL, Peter VE1WIN, George VY2GF, Borden VA1CBC, Brad VE1ZX, Eric VE1JW, Hal VE1LV, Joe VY2JC, J-P VE9ADV, Lorne VE1BXX, Mike VE1QXZ, Pravin VE9PKV, Steve VE1OR, Jon VE1JSG, Mike VE9MTV, Bill VA1BIL, Steve VE1SV, Rod VE9HV, Dana VE1VOX, Gordon VE9GC and Ken VE1UF.

Regrets from Terry & Sue Duncan VE1AS and VA1SIS and also Mike Johnson VE1MWJ. The club welcomed the newest member to the WARC Rod Bourque VE9HV from Moncton. Membership now stands at 57.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved. Moved/seconded by Ron VE1BIC/Jim VE1JBL.

Minutes from the Last Meeting:

The minutes from the February, 2022 regular meeting were posted on the Website and circulated by email. There was one error – Vice President Mike VE1ZB had chaired the meeting as Kevin VE1KEV was going to be delayed. It was moved/seconded by Ron VE1BIC/Bill VA1BIL that the minutes be approved.

Motion carried.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

George VY2GF addressed the possibility of the WARC helping an individual living in an apartment setting up a remote HF station. As there does not seem to be enough interest within the Club at this time, the matter will be left with Kevin VE1KEV to investigate further as a “long term” project. George added that it could be a “feather in our caps.”

New Business:

The yearly Club Bursary was discussed. Jim VE1AFH has arranged for the 2022 \$200 Bursary to be awarded to a student from Springhill High School. It was moved/seconded by Kevin VE1KEV/Jim VE1JBL that the Bursary this year will go to SHS, **Motion carried.**

Jon VE1JSG asked if the Club had planned on donating funds at the end of the year to Doctors Without Borders to help in Ukraine. Pravin VE9PKV said there was an urgent need right now. Jim VE1JBL suggested we donate \$100.00 to the Red Cross because the government will match the donation. J.P. VE1ADV noted that 90% of contributions goes to the cause. The members agreed to make a \$100.00 donation right away.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim VE1JBL presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved/seconded by Jim VE1JBL/PravinVE9PKV 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. Robert

VE1RMJ said he had received an inquiry about a study guide from someone in the Oxford area.

Public Service:

Nothing to report.

Web page:

Nothing to report.

E.M.O:

Nothing to report.

N.S.A.R.A:

Kevin VE1KEV reported that he had participated in the annual NSARA contest the previous Sunday, with many contacts.

President's Report:

Nothing to report.

Nets:

Mike VE1ZB said overall the Monday night Net was doing well, with 30 check-ins the previous night. Kevin said the link to Moncton seemed to be helping, although Mike noted there hadn't been that many from Moncton the night before.

Repeaters:

Lorne VE1BXX reported he had sent an email to the Club Executive on February 21 regarding the proposed hard link to VE1TCR in Moncton. He said after discussing it with Cam VE9CAM, they have determined that some Moncton club members do not want the VHF port connected to VE1SPR as a hard link. They are looking at hard linking VE1SPR to the VE9TCF Fundy National Park repeater in Alma NB. Lorne said that repeater is hard linked to VE9SHM, which has a hub link to VE1SPR. He added there is another site "in the works." Mike VE1ZB asked if removing the squelch tail would help, but Lorne said that would require modifying the repeater with help from Ron VE1AIC. Lorne said he figured VE1SHM would be more of a hub repeater, which is why he had suggested linking to VE1SPH (Springhill Hospital Repeater) as it is under-used. He said he was speaking to Cam about using VE1RPT but it was not a club matter. Kevin VE1KEV said maybe Cam would run it by the Moncton club and let them have the final say. Mike VE1ZB noted that VE1TCR can link into MAVCOM, but only during Exercise Handshake, using a different code. Mike VE1ZB said we always did maintain a link to VE1SHM, we just didn't use it. He said he had tried it a few years ago and it would link up but there was no audio. Brad VE1ZX said there is a plan to get some surplus NS Power repeaters from the NSARA to replace some WARC repeaters that are crystal controlled. Steve VE1OR will be delivering six CDM mobiles to Jim VE1JBL, who will pass them on to Lorne.

Unfinished Business:

George VY2GF gave an update on plans for S.M.A.R.T. 2022 being planned for April 30 in Springhill. He said things are cruising along, but he was concerned the price of gas may discourage people from attending. He was going to suggest attendees could carpool. He said he was sending an email to presenters for brief biographies. Jim VE1JBL said there is a need for more volunteers, and anyone interested could email him. The radios for the raffle have been ordered and Steve VE1OR will be picking them up around April 10th. He said the list of prizes has been updated on the website. Some other things are still being worked on. He said 103 had registered so far, and all the fleamarket spaces have been filled. Robert

VE1RMJ offered to help with more tables if needed. Jim noted that the Public Service and Field Communications display will be taking up half the ice surface. The BBQ is still a go. Joe VY2JC asked what COVID-19 regulations will be in place. Jim said even though the mask requirement for public spaces was being dropped as of March 21st, we might still recommend that participants wear a mask. Jim said we usually have donations of gas cards from various clubs for door prizes. He was curious about why there had not been any feedback from the outside clubs, but it may come in time. He said we were “flying by the seat of our pants” here, and we cannot predict the future. Another SMART organizational meeting will be held in early April. Steve VE1OR said he had not noticed any promotion about the event, but Jim said it should be mentioned in the next HARC newsletter. He said Mike WE1MWJ had been talking to the Mayor of Cumberland County about speaking at the opening ceremony. Mike VE1ZB asked if we could get the Wake Up Net controllers to mention it. He said it has been three years since the last one, so it is almost like a re-boot. He wondered how many participants we could safely handle. Jim said we had 160 attend the last one, but we should probably cap it this year at 150. The website dies say “registration is limited.”

Hints & Kinks:

Nothing to report.

Technical & Operating Information:

Jim VE1JBL reported he had tried the simplex repeater recently and it was working. The Halifax Fleamarket was planned for June 04, 2022 in Lower Sackville N.S.

Sick & Visiting:

Nothing to report.

Social:

Nothing to report.

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 12th 2022 at 7 pm via Google Meet

Adjournment: 8:16 pm.

Ron Bickle VE1BIC Secretary