

WARC REGULAR MEETING – November 05, 2020

(via Google Meet)

The November Regular Meeting was brought to order at 7:22 p.m. with President Kevin (VE1 KEV) as chair.

18 members took part including Jim VE1JBL, Rob VE1RMJ, Ron VE1BIC, Mike VE1ZB, Brad VE1ZX, Dana VE1VOX, David VE9DWJ, Gordon VE9GC, Jerry VE1KW, Joe VY2JC, Kevin VE1KEV, Mike VE1MWJ, James VE9WIN, Pravin VE9PKV, Rob VE9KM, Ron VE1AIC, Lorne VE1BXX and Al VE1ZS.

Regrets: Terry VE1 AS, Scott VE1CHL, Bill VA1BIL and Dave VE1DEH.

Under sick and visiting, Bob VE1EDP had been in the hospital over the past week but was now home and recovering.

Approval of the Agenda:

It was not recorded who moved/seconded the agenda.

Minutes From the Last Meeting:

The minutes from the October 01, 2020 regular meeting were posted on the Website and circulated by email. There was one correction, the addition of a “Motion Carried” for the purchase of two new preamps for the VE1WRC and the VE1AMH repeaters and also a voice module for the VE1AMH repeater.

It was moved/seconded by Ron (VE1 BIC)/Mike (VE1 MWJ) that the minutes be approved. **Motion carried.**

Business Arising From the Minutes:

Lorne (VE1 BXX) has installed the preamps and voice module for the VE1AMH digital Fusion repeater. He also had to purchase cables. As a result, a 20 dB gain has been achieved.

The club has completed the sale of the Spectrum Analyzer to Lorne Anderson (VE1 BXK) and the funds have been credited to the club.

The club has purchased Google Meet for our monthly meetings. Contact Robert Mannede VE1RMJ for information on how to join in on the meetings.
ve1rmj@gmail.com

New Business:

Lorne (VE1 BXK) explained an issue he was having with the laptop computer being used for Wires-x on the VE1AMH digital Fusion repeater. He said a small Mini PC would do a better job. He outlined the features of two different computers.

It was moved/seconded by Ron (VE1 BIC)/Jim (VE1 JBL) that the Club purchase a Mini PC for the Fusion repeater. **Motion carried.**

Jim (VE1 JBL) reported that he has renewed our “society” status online for \$31.15.

He said due to COVID-19 our RAC insurance would probably increase by 10-15 percent, and be somewhere around \$300.00. He has completed all the forms and will send it all in and then get the price.

Brad (VE1 ZX) said it was important for us to have the coverage because of repeater work being done at sites containing expensive equipment.

The transfer of two Icom V8000 radios owned by the Club was discussed. Mike (VE1 ZB) said he had one of them when he became Net coordinator, as it had a DTMF microphone. He said he passed it on to Kevin (VE1 KEV). Another radio had been returned to the Club by Al (VE1 ZS).

Treasurer's Report:

Jim (VE1 JBL) presented the Treasurer's Report for November.

It was moved/seconded by Jim (VE1 JBL)/Robert (VE1 RMJ) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Jim (VE1 JBL) said he had been contacted by a Dorchester NB resident about taking the Basic course.

Field Day:

Nothing to report.

Publicity:

Ron (VE1 BIC) has been running a public service announcement on CFTA-FM about having the Canadian Amateur Radio study guides available for \$50.00 (taxes included) at the radio station at 80 Church Street in Amherst. The books would cost \$70.00 if purchased individually.

Public Service:

The annual "Pumpkin Patrol" had been held on Halloween night. It had been quiet.

Web page:

Nothing to report.

E.M.O:

Mike (VE1 MWJ) informed the Club that our normal meeting location at the Municipality of Cumberland Upper Nappan Service Centre will not be available for the foreseeable future, and the same for the Springhill Community Centre. He observed that our virtual meetings seemed to be filling the bill for the time being.

Mike said they had been trying to get Amateurs in PEI involved in Exercise Handshake, hoping that lines of communication with PEI will open up..

A recent webinar had dealt with backup communications when TMR goes down. The old VHF backbone had been upgraded and Lorne (VE1 BXK) had programmed our radios to the old EMO frequency in Cumberland County. Mike said they could get a couple digital radios. Lorne noted that most equipment including Midland and Pye is still analog. He also said an equipment rack still has to be repaired at the Salem site. Bill Elliott (VE1 MR) has done some new repeater programming for Salem.

N.S.A.R.A:

Brad (VE1 ZX) said that due to COVID-19, there is nothing going on.

President's Report:

Nothing to report.

Net:

Mike (VE1 ZB) said the Monday Night Net was getting numbers in the mid to high 20's and gone over 30 at one point. He also outlined plans to set up a schedule of Amateurs willing to be Net controllers for a month.

Jim (VE1 JBL) suggested putting a list of operators on the Club website.

Repeaters:

Brad (VE1 ZX) said all the repeaters were all working fine. He and Lorne (VE1 ZX) hoped to get to the sites soon, before it snows. Sugarloaf and Southampton would be done first.

Mike (VE1 ZB) asked about interference at the VE1 XPR DMR repeater site. Brad said they were hoping to get hold of someone at NS Power about obtaining a new frequency. Lorne said they had done a test several weeks ago, and had installed a different notch filter, but there is still a noise problem. A system upgrade at a DMR server in New Brunswick had caused an issue there.

Unfinished Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

Hints & Kinks:

Nothing to report.

Technical & Operating Information:

Robert (VE1 RMJ) talked about using an FTM-350 to connect to a Raspberry Pi.

Ron (VE1 BIC) asked about the status of the MESH project.

Kevin (VE1 KEV) has a new tower.

Mike (VE1 ZB) noted that the last time CANWARN was in operation was during Hurricane Dorion in September, 2019.

Social:

Kevin (VE1 KEV) said if anyone is interested in having a brunch in early December to contact him. There was some discussion about how to safely hold a Christmas potluck.

Brad (VE1 ZX) suggested going to a restaurant.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, December 03, 2020 at 7:00 pm via “Google Meet”.

Adjournment: 8:44 pm.

Ron Bickle (VE1 BIC) Secretary