

WARC REGULAR MEETING – November 09, 2021

The November 2021 Regular Meeting was brought to order at 7:13 p.m. via Google Meet with President Kevin VE1KEV as chair.

There were 22 members in attendance including Rob VE1RMJ, Al VE1ZS, Scott VE1CHL, Bordon VA1CBC, Brian VE1BSD, Eric VE1JW, Terry VE1AS, Jim VE1JBL, Brad VE1ZX, Dana VE1VOX, David VE9DWJ, Peter VE1WIN, Pravin VE9PKV, Ron VE1BIC, Glenn VE9GK, Mike VE9ZB, Steve VE1OR, Bill VA1BIL, Mike VE1MY, James VE9WIN, George VY2GF and Lorne VE1BXX. Regrets from Craig VE1ECC, Gordon VE9GC, Dave VE1DEH and Joe VY2JC.

A minute of silence was observed for club member Bob Tuttle VE1DR (SK).

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes from the Last Meeting:

The minutes from the October, 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:

Rob VE1RMJ outlined how Google Meet was being used for the meeting. He said it costs \$12.00 per month which is cheaper than in the past and is a good deal when compared to other programs. No domain is needed and there is no cap on time. He said if you wish you call sign to appear when you log in, you will need to go into the Google Account Settings, under “manage your account.”

New Business:

Jim VE1JBL reported that he had filled out the forms needed to renew the WARC registration as a “society” with the NS “Registry of Joint Stock Companies.” He has also filled out the Club’s affiliation and insurance forms for RAC.

Rob VE1 RMJ gave an update on a recent on-line session that discussed AREDN or “Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network.” He had done some work with the hardware before COVID hit and has been working on the MESH network software. He hopes to begin more testing in the next few weeks. The biggest thing coming up at first will be identifying locations, and utilities for planning line-of-site between them. Rob suggested setting up a committee to work on it, and provided names of some websites. He said we have to also figure out if it is worth the investment. Steve VE1OR noted that the software was phenomenal, and it all came down to power and range. He said there was less interference in the 5 GHz band. Rob said he was very familiar with Ubiquity as he uses it at work. Jim VE1JBL agreed that it was a good idea to form a committee that could have its own Google Meet. He has discussed with George VY2GF that it could be a good session for S.M.A.R.T. in 2022 if it is held. It may just be a briefing, with a general description of the project and not a full-fledged training session. Steve wondered what the Moncton group was doing with MESH. Rob VE1RMJ said we had a presentation a few years ago conducted by Steve VE9SF. Jim said Nova Scotia Public Safety and Field Communications had confirmed that both their new vehicles built in Florida would be on hand at S.M.A.R.T. in 2022. He noted that the BBQ may not be allowed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim VE1JBL presented the Treasurer’s Report. It was moved/seconded by Jim VE1JBL/AIVE1ZS that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence:

Kevin VE1KEV said has finally received his NSARA certificates from the 2020 and 2021 contests. Jim VE1JBL reported that Wayne Tuttle (nephew of Bob Tuttle) had called him to find out about Bob's radio equipment and how to sell them. Jim said he will be heading down to Pugwash soon to meet with him, log the radios and accessories and will post them for sale on the WARC website. It has not been finalized yet what will become of the funds from the sale. A notice will be put

out to all members when these items are on the site. Terry VE1AS has offered to go with Jim to meet with Wayne.

Field Day:

Nothing to report.

Publicity:

Ron VE1BIC has resumed mentioning on the air that more study guides are for sale at the CFTA studios at 80 Church Street in Amherst.

Public Service:

The annual Pumpkin Patrol took place on Halloween Night. Mike VE1MY, Jim VE1AFH and Mike VE1MWJ took part.

Web page:

Jim VE1JBL said the webpage was going fine. He will do a recap of the meeting and an update on Exercise Handshake. He noted that the Moncton group wants to try using packet.

E.M.O:

Jim VE1JBL noted that Mike VE1MWJ had officially retired as Cumberland Regional EMO coordinator, but will be serving as backup for the incoming coordinator. He will be cleaning out his office next week. Jim said many WARC files are located at the County office, as well as Icom and Harris HF radios. Rob VE1RMJ said the WARC has not officially been told to move out, and while no official agreement was ever in place, Mike will still be there as backup and will be looking out for the Club's interests going forward. Lorne VE1BXX said he had

been told by Mike that being an Amateur Radio Operator was not listed as a requirement for the position of EMO coordinator.

N.S.A.R.A:

As was mentioned under Correspondence, Kevin VE1KEV said has finally received his NSARA certificates from the 2020 and 2021 contests.

President's Report:

Nothing to report.

Net:

Mike VE1ZB reported that the Monday Night Net was going well. There had been 48 check-ins the previous night. There are currently 5 Net Controllers.

The recent Fusion Net also had 48 check-ins. As there had been a problem hosting the net on the Moncton repeater, Mike VE9MTV had used his own node. Brad VE1ZX noted that the Moncton crew is able to use the BFB Fusion repeater.

Repeaters:

Lorne VE1BXX reported that the power supply for the Sand River had been repaired and the RC210 controller had been returned from Oregon. It has been programmed and is ready to return to the site. CTCSS has been added to the MSR2000 and he can turn off the PL tone remotely with DTMF. He said the main cause of issues over the years at Sand River was the power supply. They hoped to visit the site before winter. Brad VE1ZX said the DVR at the Sugarloaf repeater had failed, but Lorne was able to go in remotely to check it. Steve VE1OR offered to help Lorne and Brad acquire anything that was missing. Upgrades had been done to the RC210 controllers at Salem and Southampton, but the repeater at the Springhill Hospital (funded by EMO) should also be upgraded. Brad asked if the

County had paid for the upgrade at Sand River. There was some discussion about what was available from NSARA for surplus equipment.

Unfinished Business:

Nothing to report.

Hints & Kinks:

Nothing to report.

Technical & Operating Information:

Jim VE1JBL said during the Thursday night Net on PEI, a solar flare had caused the band to go dead. Brian VE1BSD said there were some photos of the aurora taken at Amherst Point posted to Facebook. It had played havoc with the HF bands. Dana VE1VOX said the last few days had been very good including Asia on 12 meters. He had worked 27 new countries. It is the beginning of a new solar cycle.

Sick & Visiting:

Jim VE1JBL reported that Bob VE1EDP had been admitted to the Amherst hospital the previous Thursday. He has congestive heart failure, COPD and Diabetes. He had called Jim on Sunday night saying he was very weak.

Social:

Nothing to report.

Next Meeting

Tuesday December 14th at 7 pm via Google Meet

Adjournment: 8:23 pm.

Ron Bickle VE1BIC Secretary