

WARC REGULAR MEETING – December 13, 2022

The December 13 2022 Regular Meeting was brought to order at 7:36 p.m. via Google Meet with President Kevin VE1KEV as chair.

Twenty-three members participated in the December meeting including Jim VE1JBL, Bill VA1JIM, Charlie VE1CPI, Don VE9CUB, Eric VE1JW, Frank VE1FSM, George VY2GF, Gordon VE9GC, Jim VE1CHI, Joe VY2JC, Borden VA1CBC, Jon VE1JSG, Kevin VE1KEV, Lorne VE1BXK, Mike VE1ZZZ, Pravin VE9PKV, Robert VE1RMJ, Ron VE1BIC, Scott VE1CHL, Steve VE1OR, Terry VE1AS, Peter VE1WIN and Frank VE3AC.

The meeting started with a minute of silence for club member Ron Blue VE1BBB who passed away the previous week.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved. Moved/seconded by Ron VE1BIC/Pravin VE9PKV.

Minutes from the Last Meeting:

The minutes from the November 08, 2022 regular meeting were posted on the Website and circulated by email. It was moved/seconded by Ron VE1BIC/Peter VE1WIN that the minutes be approved. **Motion carried.**

Business Arising From the Minutes:

Jim VE1JBL reported he had paid for the WARC affiliation with RAC and the RAC insurance for the next year, amounting to \$710.39.

New Business:

Kevin VE1KEV gave an update on what was being done with the equipment donated to the WARC by the late Ron Blue VE1BBB. Kevin said he and Frank VE1FSM had met with Ron's son Chuck once he had everything situated. They boxed up any ham-related items in his radio room and gave a copy of the list to

Chuck. The list and photos were emailed to Jim VE1JBL to post on the WARC website, and there will be an online auction for a week or two. Anyone wanting to place a bid can email Jim, The proceeds will be split 50-50 with Ron's family and the Club. Charles VE1CPI asked if the bids would be finalized by Christmas, to which Jim replied that the auction would end the following Sunday at midnight. Jim will email the successful bidders, who can then send the funds to Jim by eTransfer.

George VY2GF gave a report on plans for S.M.A.R.T. 2023, which is scheduled for May 27th. He has a full slate of speakers lined up, including a presentation on Winlink by Neil Hughes. It was decided that the first meeting for SMART 23 will take place on Tuesday, January 3rd 7:30 pm via Google Meet. All members interested in helping out this year are invited to attend with their thoughts about the event. Peter VE1WIN noted that the Halifax Fleamarket was on the first weekend in June and would not interfere with S.M.A.R.T.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim VE1JBL presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved/seconded by Jim VE1JBL/Joe VY2JC that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Motion carried**

Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

Field Day:

Nothing to report.

Publicity:

Ron VE1BIC offered to do a program about Amateur Radio on CFTA 107.9 sometime early in 2023, which may lead to the Club getting some new members.

A recent Amateur Radio Course in PEI had resulted in 8 new licensed Amateurs, with 5 of the 8 being female.

Steve VE1OR noted that the co-author of the Canadian Amateur Handbook was Jeff Smith who had lived in Sackville N.B.

Public Service:

Nothing to report.

Web page:

Jim VE1JBL said he has “too many things on his plate” and is looking for a member to take over the Club website after the end of the year in June 2023. Contact Jim if you are interested.

E.M.O.:

Jim VE1JBL said he had met with Mike VE1MWJ and had turned in his key to the EMO room and his EMO radio. Jim said “something was in the works” for the Cumberland County EMO.

N.S.A.R.A.:

Jim VE1JBL reported that Jim VE1AFH had written a letter to the NSARA to discuss if the WARC awarded a high school bursary would we still get a refund.

Nets:

Mike VE1ZB reported that the Club Nets had been going well, with check-ins in the 20 range. He noted that more than half of the participants each week are not WARC members. He is always looking for help with the monthly “Exercise Handshake.” Mike noted that it is good for experience in linking repeaters. He said he writes everything down and last winter had suggested they have a meeting with

Nova Scotia Public Safety and Field Communications, and wondered if someone from that organization should check in to it. Jim VE1JBL said he thought there was more interest in the Amateur Radio side vs the TMR side. He noted that Tracy Allen, VY2TAZ was very active in PEI during Hurricane Fiona, and was interested in getting in touch with Amateurs on the mainland. George VY2GF noted that the EMO on PEI “doesn’t know Amateur Radio Operators exist” and the lack of a “Good Samaritan Law” leaves Amateurs open for libel. Jim observed that the idea of Exercise Handshake was to get Amateurs into the EOC’s and become familiar with the equipment and test it. He said Search & Rescue has a VHF radio system and also TMR. Steve VE1OR said the “role of Amateur Radio” is defined in the national EMO plan. Jim VE1JBL noted the WARC has a “memorandum of understanding” with the Municipality of Cumberland. Steve added that there is a “niche role” that Amateurs can play. Jon VE1JSG observed that the EMO needed the help of Amateurs when a fiber cable was cut several years ago. Jim VE1JBL said during the outage that had affected Cape Breton, contact with the mainland was established using Echolink. Brad VE1ZX said a fire at a telephone company building in Newfoundland had caused a 2-day disruption, and HF radio was used to establish communications.

Repeaters:

Brad VE1ZX reported that he and Lorne VE1BKK had made two trips to Sugarloaf, on November 16th and 28th. A new computer was slated to be installed at Sand River on December 12th. He said part of the problem was bad filters, and after they were adjusted the site was now working very well. Ron VE1BIC offered to go to the Salem site and install a new CMOS battery for the miniPC if Lorne was unable to.

Hints & Kinks:

Nothing to report.

Technical & Operating Information:

Georg VY2GF said there is now a Help Group website for AMSTAR.

Social:

Nothing to report.

Next Meeting

Next club meeting will be Tuesday **January 10th** via Google Meet.

Adjournment: 8:53 pm.

Ron Bickle VE1BIC Secretary