

WARC REGULAR MEETING – February 07, 2019

The Meeting was brought to order at 7:05 p.m. with President Kevin (VE1 KEV) in the chair. 22 members were present. Introductions were made around the room.

Regrets: Lorne (VE1 BXK); Kaye (VE1 YH); Rick (VE9 RWS).

Minutes From the Last Meeting:

The minutes from the January 07, 2019 regular meeting were posted on the WARC website and distributed in the Newsletter.

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

Business Arising From the Minutes:

Jim (VE1 JBL) reported that everything was a go for the 2019 SMART Symposium in April. The rooms are booked at the Springhill Community Centre, including the arena which will be available from 6 am until 6 pm. There will be 12 classes this year, and the on-site canteen will be open. The free lunchtime BBQ will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs, pop and water. The grand prize will be 2 Fusion radios, a portable and a mobile., and there will be four \$25 gift certificates. Dana (VE1 VOX) and Don (VE1 AOE) are looking after prizes. Mike (VE1 MY) and Al (VE1 ZS) will handle the 50-50. The lunch break will be longer, at 90 minutes. There will be another break from 3:30 to 4:00 for the prize draws and group photo. The schedule is not quite ready, but will be posted to the website shortly. Registration will begin on February 8th.

Ron (VE1 BBB) asked if there would be a drone photo, and Mike (VE1 MWJ) said that he hoped it would be possible. Last year one of the classes ran over, so participants missed being in the group photo.

New Business:

Jim (VE1 JBL) had received an email from Bob (VE1 DR) offering to help fund a new Fusion digital repeater, with the provision that it be installed at the Leicester (Salem) VE1 WRC site.

Digital repeaters are on sale for a limited time for \$900 (US).

Brad (VE1 ZX) pointed out that repeater radios at NS government sites have to be capable of using analog. Mike (VE1 MWJ) added that if we replace the current analog repeater with a digital unit on VHF we could keep the current filters.

Bob (VE1 EDP) noted that if we switch to digital we would lose MAVCOM and IRLP at that site.

Jim (VE1 JBL) said it would be good to have a second digital repeater in this area if the other repeater (VE1 BFB) was in use for a net on CQ Canada.

Brad (VE1 ZX) said we could put up a node at the Leicester Fair Hall.

Mike (VE1 MWK) suggested we strike up a committee to come back with a recommendation at the next meeting, to which Kevin (VE1 KEV) said we already have an existing Repeater Committee.

Jim (VE1 AFH) observed that this is a new thing to all of us, and we should have a small committee address this particular issue, keeping in mind that we will have the funds. Jim said we need to look at the technical aspects of the project, such as who is going to install it, and then report back to the Club, so the membership has a better chance to decide.

Jon (VE1 JSG) said we should try to cross-platform as many radios as possible.

Pravin (VE9PKV) said it doesn't have to be a straw vote.

Rob (VE9 KM) agreed that it would be good to have lots of radios.

Jerry (VE1 KW) agreed with Jim's points, but felt if we put a committee together that it would involve the Repeater Committee, giving them the power to add to the committee for this discussion.

Hal (VE1 LV) noted that digital radio can go all over the world, and Jim (VE1 JBL) added that digital gives much clearer voice quality.

Brad (VE1 ZX) said you can also send pictures, text messages and email.

Jim (VE1 AFH) said he agreed with Jerry that the Repeater Committee should be able to draw from other Club members for their input.

Mike (VE1 MWJ) cautioned that from an EMO perspective, the loss of MAVCOM at the VE1 WRC site will need to be addressed.

Brad (VE1 ZX) said we shouldn't have a problem if we continue to use the same frequency for VE1 WRC.

Jim (VE1 AFH) said this would be looked at, and also suggested Club members would also be willing to pass the hat to help fund the project.

Dave (VE1 HUL) asked if there would be a difference in coverage using UHF instead of VHF. (The answer was yes- it would be less with UHF).

Brad (VE1 ZX) said the total cost could be \$2000 if you have to go to another site, plus you would need a dedicated link to someone's QTH. He said Ron (VE1 AIC) would have to be involved with new TX and RX frequencies if we moved away from 147.285. Mike (VE1 MWJ) said we need to know two things at the next meeting, or within two months - can we get into the site, and how much will it cost.

Bob (VE1 EDP) said it sounded like the hassle we had with IRLP.

Dave (VE9 DWJ) wondered if we were "jumping the gun" with this plan.

Jim (VE1 JBL) noted that we had a two or three months to figure it out, as the repeater sale was on until late spring.

Pravin (PKV) said we should just give them one month to report.

Jim (VE1 AFH) said there would be answers, and we can do it quickly. As for the EMO aspect, he said we could explain to the Province why we are taking out the present system to go to Fusion, and will it be of benefit to EMO and the Province.

Brad (VE1 ZX) summed up the discussion by noting that Amateurs are enjoying the hobby, and doing it as a group.

Treasurer's Report:

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

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

Correspondence:

Jim (VE1 JBL) had received regarding setting up a Fusion Net for the Maritimes, perhaps on Sunday nights. He said we should talk it over with the Truro group. Brad (VE1 ZX) asked what kind of Internet connection Truro was using and was told it was Bell Fiber.

Field Day:

Nothing to report.

Publicity:

Ron (VE1 BIC) said he had aired a PSA about the meeting for the past two days on CFTA 107.9. He reminded the Club that a better antenna was required for the 2m radio at the studio.

Public Service:

Nothing to report.

Newsletter:

Peter (VE1 SM) reported no issues. He said the past month had been easier.

Web page:

Jim (VE1 JBL) reported no problems, and he would be adding the SMART Symposium material over the next few days.

E.M.O:

Mike (VE1 MWJ) reported that the first permanent simplex repeater had been installed at the Leicester Fire Hall using 146.490. He said it was important for users to let it repeat before beginning another transmission, even if you are hearing the input transmission directly. He suggested keeping transmissions brief, and to play with it and work with it. It is just a test location. Jim (VE1 JBL) noted that there were pictures on the website.

Mike also reported on a presentation in Shubenacadie about how EMO works with Amateurs. He said it had caught the attention of Field Communications and Public Safety, who were surprised that the simplex repeaters cost only \$100. They suggested that there were enough surplus radios to allow simplex repeaters to be installed across the province, and they want to see the system. Mike said there needs to be a policy to address "how to recognize when it is time to use it." He said the answer was that when regular communications are down, you automatically go to simplex.

Pravin (VE9 PKV) asked how much of a delay there was, and Mike said about 1 to 1.5 seconds.

Jim (VE1 JBL) suggested that if you hear two conversations, one direct and then back through the repeater, then you should switch to another simplex frequency.

Mike (VE1 MWJ) said it is just a test, and we need to learn how it works before making it permanent.

Brad (VE1 ZX) said he has been licensed for 40 years and has yet to see everything go down.

Jim (VE1 JBL) said he can hit the simplex repeater from Tidnish, a distance of 25 km.

Mike (VE1 MWJ) said it would be using the call sign VE1 EMX with a Morse ID every 30 minutes.

N.S.A.R.A.:

Brad (VE1 ZX) said the next NSARA meeting will be held at the Halifax Fleamarket. It would be held earlier this year.

President's Report:

Nothing to report.

Net:

Al (VE1 ZS) reported some issues with New Glasgow and

Antigonish. Brad (VE1 ZX) said the problem was through the controller in Truro, and they need to reset things on their end. McLellans Mountain to Truro and Gore was noisy. Mike (VE1 ZB) noted that more non-members than Club members check in to the Westcumb Net on Monday night.

Repeaters:

Brad (VE1 ZX) reported no issues, except a minor problem at Sugarloaf.

Unfinished Business:

Kevin (VE1 KEV) said the crested shirts had arrived and they would need at least eight more names to order more at the same price.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

Hints & Kinks:

Nothing to report.

Sick and Visiting:

Brad (VE1 ZX) reported that Rick (VE9 RWS) was feeling better and was back at the special care facility. He was now using Fusion.

Technical & Operating Information:

Jerry (VE1 KW) gave a brief update on how the North Magnetic Pole now in Canada was rapidly moving toward Siberia. Updates were available from spaceweather.com. Bob (VE1 EDP) said some Amateurs in Newfoundland had their license plates stolen.

Social:

The February Brunch will be at Breakfast at Brittney's in Amherst on the 16th. In March, it will be at Patterson's in Sackville on the 16th.

The 50-50 (\$37.00) was won by Dave (VE1 HUL).

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 07, 2019, 7 pm at the Municipality of Cumberland Building in Upper Nappan.

Adjournment: 8:39 pm.

Ron Bickle (VE1 BIC) Secretary