

Halifax Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes 17 April 2019

1. Welcome to the HARC monthly meeting for April 2019:

The meeting was called to order by Bill VE1MR at 2004

2. Report of any Silent Keys:

March 1, 2019 - VE9TM, Travis McCluskey - Riverview, NB

March 21, 2019 – VE9NG, Neil Goldberg - Bay du Vin, NB

March 26, 2019 – VE1AJI, Michael Koval – Saint John, NB

April 12, 2019 – VE9RN, Russ Nixon – Moncton, NB

3. Roll Call: 27 members and visitors were in attendance.

4. Acceptance of the Agenda presented:

It was moved to accept the Agenda by Brian, VA1CC, seconded by Fred, VE1FA, motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes of 20 March 2019 as printed in the Reflector:

It was moved by Doug, VE1LDL to approve the minutes, seconded by Fraser, VE1WO. Motion carried.

6. Correspondence:

Roger, VA1RST reported that HRM acknowledged receipt of the 2019 Community Grant request. HARC will be notified in writing after adoption of the HRM 2019 budget as to the outcome. There were also returned QSL cards due to bad addresses or Silent Keys. QST magazine arrived

7. President's Report: As printed in the March Reflector and repeated here:

Time is passing quickly and I hope Winter is almost over. The HARC activity year started with Guides on the Air (GOTA) and the Ham breakfast in February. There are other upcoming events such as a HATS exercise in mid March and the 20th annual Shearwater Spring Hobby Show in early April.

The parts are ordered to repair the reflector element of the HF beam. Once those are in and reassembled there will be a small work party to reinstall the element & swing the 900 MHz beam to Riverlake JEM.

The remote station is operational and by the next meeting the keypads for the radio room and office should be working. The manual & automatic antenna switching is now fully operational and only needs some labelling to be complete. Funding is underway for upgrading the radios and computers in the radio room but that will probably be several months away.

There is still a need for members to step forward to help out with various events and tasks. Notably the Hobby show and weekly radio checks. Please consider donating a few hours of your time.

Another item that may be slipping through the cracks is the time & mileage you volunteer. Some volunteer hours are likely to be in support of EMO and reportable as volunteer hours and any mileage involved.

You may ask, “are an hour or two and a few kilometres going to make a real difference?” If 20 people think this, then that may be 20 hours and 400 km volunteered in a particular month that is not reported. This thinking can lead to missing out on 240 volunteer hours and up to 5000 km. Even the time to fill out the form is countable - you may not use more than 15 or 20 minutes for the report but that can be reported every 3 or 4 months as 1 more volunteer hour. Some months you may not have enough to report but small amounts of accumulated time & mileage can be reported later. This reporting is one way to justify the support we have from EMO.

8. Treasurer's Monthly Report:

Bill, VA1ALW reported the income and expenses for the reporting period.

Bill, VE1ALW moved to accept the report; Sheldon, VE1GPY seconded. Motion carried.

9. Other Executive Reports:

Jason VE1PYE reported 8 people passed the Basic exam, the second exam will be given this weekend, April 24th here at Station 50.

10. Committee, Event and Special Projects Reports:

Membership Report:

Jim, VE1PPA reported there are 89 Full members, 20 Associate members, 4 Life members and 20 complimentary members for a total of 131. Not renewed from 2018 are 36 (including 9 from the Basic Class which means 25 full or associate members from 2018 have not yet renewed.

EMO:

Dave George, VE1AJP absent, Bill VE1MR reported on the EMO volunteer appreciation ceremony held on April 13th. A fair number attended either as HARC, HATS or search & rescue members. Certificates for service with the longest being 40 years was Daryl Hayes VE1BTQ, from Musquobodoit Harbor was given out by Mayor Mike Savage as well as the 35, 30, 25 year certificates. Some of the Councillors gave out the 20, 15, and 10 year certificates. The Fire Chief gave out the 5 year certificates. Attendance was great with over 100 people, a full house, maybe half a dozen certificates were not given out.

Search & Rescue:

Dave George, VE1AJP absent, it was reported that a short search for a 79 year old female, who had been missing for several hours took place. She was located and OK.

Station Manager Report:

Brian VA1CC reported that the Mosley beam parts have arrived, Don Mosher has parts in storage. There appears to be an intermittent antenna selection relay when running the remote setup. As a side note, Brian reported that he administered the Advanced Exam to an employee of Industry Canada, Matthew Jenson, who passed with a 98 via self study! Bill, VE1MR noted that inspectors from Industry Canada are required to have an Amateur license.

HATS:

Scott, VE1QD Halifax Auxiliary Telecommunication Service, is embedded into the Municipality to call out to participating amateur radio operators to assist in times of emergency or other need to assist in auxiliary communications. The Steering Comm will have a general meeting on the 24th at Station 50. A General Meeting will be held at Station 50 on May 2 at 7pm, with a speaker. Larry Hicks who is on the HATS Steering Comm and Vice President of Engineering at Intertalk – 'Critical Communication Systems' to talk about new technology, hardware & software coming down the pipeline.

During emergency preparedness week, May 6th – May 12th, operation will be from MMA with all equipment capability being tested as an exercise for HATS. Scott reported that he is looking for some photography minded members to record events.

Other reports:

MMA: - Dick VE1AI, absent.

A combined report from Scott, VE1QD and Bill, VA1ALW reported that MMA will start staffing the 1st week of May on Mondays and Thursdays for the cruise ship season. 192 cruise ships are expected this season. The March break period was very successful.

Field Day: - Dick, VE1AI absent.

Others discussed. Set up will be at Station 50. A prime publicity event with a Get on the Air location most likely across the street, with phone and CW stations separated, a combination
All the new licensed hams will be invited to attend by Jason VE1PYE.

Parks on the Air:

Sheldon VE1GPY reported a slow start for Canadian National Parks on the Air this year due to the cold weather. A couple of operators from the Valley have been out activating some of the sites. Check out the Website <https://cnpota.ca> to sign up and get a wealth of information on how to be involved in this endeavour and of course HARC's own Sheldon VE1GPY can assist you!

Sheldon gave a report on some of the activators and participation levels to achieve valid park or historic site activation via voice SSB, FM, Digital, CW. There are some very active and involved activators!

11. Old Business:

- a) Fund raiser – The Bay Treasure Chest – still no word back yet
- b) Advanced course: Jason VE1PYE reported 13 - 14 inquired, the Advanced books have arrived, 30 more inquires for another Basic!

12. New Business:

- a) We need a Club QSL manager for VE1FO, VE1FQ to handle Field Day card requests and any other QSL card needs.
- b) An MS Walk organizer is needed for May 26th. Jeremy, VE1JHF, has done this in the past though has been busy with personal family obligations as of late.
- c) The Flea Market is May 25. Get your stuff ready to sell and or get ready to pick up new old stuff!

13. Round Table: - Member News: the brief sharing of important personal news.

- a) Helen, VA1YL reported about the amateur radio article in the Chronicle Herald.
- b) SMART will be on April 26 in Springhill NS.
- c) Craig, VE1JMA reported on the Hobby Show held at Shearwater. Winlink was demonstrated. We need to have something more visual; it's a hard sell.
Thanks to these – Brian, VA1CC, Jeremy, VE1JHF, Doug, VE1LDL & a friend, Rob Stiles, who helped out. It was a fun weekend.
- d) Greg, VE1GFX, Scott, VE1RSJ, new hams from the class were introduced tonight to much applause!
- e) Fraser, VE1WO reported on Flea Market Selling space, 55 tables available, they are 6 feet long. A selling space is \$10. 26 have been spoken for. Contact Fraser, VE1WO to reserve spot, a few of the spaces have power. To be held at the Sackville Legion, canteen will be available.
- f) A question was raised about where to get HARC call leter name tags, clarifications were presented – best to e-mail Jeremy VE1JHF.

14. 50:50 Draw: \$59.00 was collected tonight, draw ticket #235 Murray VE1BB won \$29.50!

15. Motion for Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2055 Hours on a motion by Fraser, VE1WO.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Stein, VA1RST, HARC Secretary