

Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Virtual General Meeting
16 September 2020

1. Welcome to the HARC virtual monthly meeting for September 16, 2020:

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Brian, VA1CC at approx. 1910.

2. Report of any Silent Keys:

The following amateurs in the Maritimes have passed since the last club meeting.

Rod Sandall, VE1AYI of New Glasgow, NS on Aug 20

J. Christopher Colwell, VE9JCC of Little River Hill, NB on Sept 1

Garnet Cluet, VE1EDG of Liverpool, NS on Sept 8.

3. Acceptance of the Agenda:

A request was made to accept the agenda as presented by Brian, VA1CC. A motion was made by Bill, VE1MR to accept the agenda, seconded by Tim, VE1TIM. Unanimous hands raised, the motion passed.

4. Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2020 as printed in the Reflector:

A correction was noted for the search and rescue report. A motion was made by Don, VE1DTR to approve the corrected minutes, seconded by Fraser, VE1WO. Unanimous hands raised. Motion passed.

5. Correspondence:

Brian, VA1CC gained access to Station 50, there were returned QSL Bureau envelopes, please update your address with Murray, VE1BB, also bank correspondence was received for treasurer Bill, VA1ALW.

6. President's Report:

Brian, VA1CC reported two exams were administered. Leisl Harmon and Olexiy Prokhvatylo both passed with Honours. Both joined the club, welcome! Brian reported that the satellite tower purchased for Station 50 will remain here and not go to Sheet Harbour as had been previously reported. Zoom boom will be provided for the club's use to replace antennas at Cowie Hill. A work party will be assembled

7. Treasurer's Report:

Bill, VA1ALW reported the income from the period of August 1 to August 31 was in the amount of \$0.00. Expenses for the same period came to \$0.

membership@halifax-arc.org is the proper email to send membership payments. A motion was made by Bill, VA1ALW to accept the report. Ray, VE1RAY seconded the motion, unanimous passing of the motion.

8. Station Manager Report:

Don, VE1DTR reported that he, Greg, VE1GFX, and Fraser, VE1WO spent a couple of hours at the HARC station going over the RigPi procedure for enrolling members for operation of the remote station. This will be for use by qualified members of HARC. The antenna rotor interface still needs work. An enrolment form will be coming out to members in October.

9. Search and Rescue:

Dave VE1AJP gave a history of the Search & Rescue facility location which is adjacent to a rail line. The area across the rail lines is ideal for training purposes due to the wide variety of terrain. He reported that the CNR police were enforcing the No Trespass rule on a few members of the public who had attempted to cross the tracks to get to the public trail system! S & R got together with the CNR personnel to work out an arrangement so their personnel can continue to cross the tracks at a non-crossing point for training activity.

10. Committee, Event and Special Projects Reports:

1. The Club is looking for two club positions to be filled. They are Membership Chair and Safety Officer, Jim Calvesbert, VE1PPA and Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PK are stepping down. Please contact Brian, VA1CC if you are interested in either position. Both fellows will help you with the transition.

2. A Chair person is needed to head up the nomination committee to help in polling members to fill these positions.

3. Bill, VE1MR reported on the Cowie Hill repeater site antennas and feed lines. Some are in need of attention. This includes checking and replacing some of the antennas, feedlines, making sure the feed lines are properly identified, opening up connectors to verify feedline integrity, antenna performance & mechanical clamping to the tower. An antenna, if defective, would be replaced. The antennas are at the 75', 65' & 45' levels approximately. A work plan, safety plan & Covid plan are required and are being prepared by committee for submission to Don Mosher, VE1DRM HRM EOC co-ordinator, for approval. Work, pending approval, can begin when the Zoom boom date is established. A certified Zoom boom operator through HRM is available to provide workers with access to the tower during the work week. Bill, VA1ALW has volunteered to be Site Safety Officer. Fall Safety certification discussion followed along with hoisting rope & block requirements. Covid protection requirements & procedures were discussed. Rescue gear is stored inside the Cowie Hill storage container adjacent to the tower.

11. Round Table:

Jason, VE1PYE made a request for assistance to manage the sale and disposal of the clubs surplus equipment. Please contact him if interested. VE1AI Dick reported that there is no activity at the Maritime Museum this year due to the Covid situation. Dick inquired about the availability of UHF gear in the St Margaret's Bay area to possibly link with the Dart-mouth UHF repeater, VE1DAR, 444.600. DX chasers use the UHF band to communicate DX activity during the chase! Discussion followed, CDN repeater site suggested, echo link via PSR. Gear is available, a multi-coupler is needed. Lots of options with more discussion to follow.

Terry, VE1TRB, told of the upcoming CFARS, Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio System, exercise using Winlink via a Vara modem, a back up communication system for Canadian Forces. Both Amateur and Military frequencies are proposed. He will prepare an article for a future issue of the Reflector. Bill, VA1ALW reported that the RAC AGM is online on Sept 20. Peter, VE1PS reported that the cross-band voice repeater on the ISS SAT station is back on the air.

12. Motion for Adjournment:

Bill, VE1MR, motioning to adjourn, meeting; adjourned approx 2100 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Stein, VA1RST, HARC Secretary