

Halifax Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes

18 June 2014

Meeting convened 2050

Agenda approved

Minutes from May 2014, correction to minutes 50/50 draw won by Jack (OU)

Acceptance moved by Bill (MR), Seconded by John (JDH), Accepted.

Scott queried Fraser about a statement received from the Bank Of Montreal for \$2.50, Fraser said the account was closed and he would check with the bank regarding the statement.

Presidents report:

MS Walkathon was well attended with plenty of support.

Flea market was a success, reminder about upcoming pizza nights in July and August.

Scott reported that he had a message from Murray MacDonald stating that he would like to remain as government liaison officer for the club, after having been down for a while with a bad back.

Allan McRae is unable to continue as the CP Allen liaison due to starting his own business, and Laura Muise has agreed to take over the position.

RAC membership is now at 4682 Canadian Hams.

Scott noted that there was a recent report that the death rate is exceeding the birth rate in Nova Scotia, with no sufficient immigration to offset that, and the potential implications this has on amateur radio in NS.

Scott mentioned that John (JDH) is looking for some assistance in installing some antennas at his home, if anyone could help out.

Treasurer's report presented by Jim (JG).

Jim moved for acceptance of the report, Doug (LDL) seconded, report was accepted.

Bill (MR) reported that he met with Barry Manuel from EMO with regards to the repeater building, and gave an overview of the repairs that will be made to the building that the city will pay for.

Bill asked for helpers to install the 900 MHz repeater antenna this Friday, there were offers from several people, and a time was set.

Jim (JIM) reported that he has a couple of people that want to write the exam in the near future. He mentioned that he had a note from Dave Schindler (VA3IIF) in Ontario, thanking people for all the emails and best wishes during his recent spinal operation.

Scott presented a report from Howard Dixon on the current status of the Brit Fader Scholarship. He also presented the current membership totals of 3 Life members, 102 full members and 19 associate members for a total of 124 members.

Howard has also done an analysis of membership over the last 8 years, and membership has ranged from a high of 149 in 2009 to a low of 109 in 2013.

In these 8 years, HARC has had 250 members fail to maintain their membership.

Howard will be drafting a questionnaire to be sent to those lapsed members to determine why they haven't returned to the club roster.

This is being done to give us some idea of what we can do in the future to retain members.

Ian (IGP) raised the question about whether it would be better to send a letter to those lapsed members, and Bill mentioned that such a campaign in the past has more than paid for itself in returned members.

Committee reports:

Jeremy (JHF) spoke on the success of the hamfest, we had approximately 240 people in attendance, and gave a brief breakdown of the budget and monies taken in.

Fraser gave a brief mention of sales from the club table.

Scott (QD) mentioned that we took in \$200 in donations toward the Brit Fader scholarship.

Scott (SRV) gave a brief report on this years Basic Course as to when it was running and the times.

Search and Rescue / EMO:

Dave (AJP) gave a report about a recent search in the Goffs area behind the airport, and the assistance received from the phone company in locating the lost gentlemen.

He then mentioned the Spider Lake search for the missing biker, and how it escalated to involve many search teams and the military, and the heavy logistics involved in the search.

Then a brief report about the man missing in the Crystal Crescent Beach area.

Bill (MR) reported that Win has been looking into starting some preventative maintenance on the storage container and there was some discussion about painting the roof with a heat reflective paint, and there was some discussion on the matter.

Scott reported that the electronics workstation is in place and ready to use, but we are still in need of some tools.

Fraser reported that there are several people interested in remote operation of the club station and that he is still looking for someone to run the program.

Nothing to report on the archiving project.

Ian (IGP) reported on the upcoming car rally and asked if anyone was interested in helping out with communications for the rally.

Craig (JMA) gave a brief report on the MPO committee and their plans for Field Day.

New Business:

2015 Boy Scout Jamboree – deferred

Fundraising initiatives for the Club for the future – Scott is working on some ideas to be presented in the fall pertaining to this.

Amanda reported that she and Jayne have been working on getting donations from local stores to assist with monthly meeting expenses.

Bill (MR) tabled a motion to purchase a DX88 antenna from Dave (EDA) for spare parts for the club antenna, for \$200.

Doug (LDL) seconded the motion. Dick (AI) put forth that he didn't think that it was a good deal, because he has some intimate knowledge of that antenna and the problems with it.

There was some further discussion, and the motion was opposed, in favour of trying some other avenues.

Bill (MR) then presented a motion to inspect the roof of the storage container to determine its fitness, and if it needs some servicing in the form of paint, seconded by John (JDH), to spend up to \$250 for said paint.

Original motion was withdrawn, and a motion was made by Bill and seconded by Ian to inspect the roof and report back on its condition, and we will decide from there how best to proceed.

Door Prize: \$25 Canadian Tire GC won by Doug (LDL)

50/50 Draw: \$26 won by Amanda Schreiber

Motion to adjourn: Fraser Moved

Meeting adjourned 2200