

MAARC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2022

The January MAARC Meeting took place on Saturday, January 22 at 10am via Zoom. There were 21 members present. A welcome to all in attendance was made by MAARC President Oscar, VE9OSK. The agenda for the January Meeting was read to all by Mike, VE9MTV. There were no additions to the agenda as presented. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Gus, VE9GUS and seconded by André, VE9ARG. The motion carried. A motion to accept the minutes of the December Meeting was made by Mike, VE9MTV and seconded by Gordon, VE9GC. The motion carried.

Under business a raising out of the minutes, Cam, VE9CAM had sent Mike, VE9MTV a request from the West Cumberland Amateur Radio Club to hard link the VE1SPR repeater in Springhill, NS with the VE9SMH repeater in Moncton, NB. The West Cumberland Club's members had agreed to approach MAARC with that request. After some discussion about how neither repeater was a high traffic/ high use repeater, it was decided that it would be beneficial to both clubs to link the two repeaters as we have some of their members in our club and our members in their club. A motion to hard link the two repeaters was made by Mike, VE9MTV and seconded by Larry, VE9ASB. The motion carried. Stephen, VE9SC asked when the linkup will happen. Cam, VE9CAM advised that Loren from West Cumberland Club was waiting to hear back from MAARC so it should be soon. Also, Cam, VE9CAM tested the VE9SMH repeater with the Sugar Loaf Repeater for the Trans Canada Net. It was a successful test and he will test it again this Wednesday. He already has a UHF radio to use and only needs a UHF antenna to complete this endeavour. Ross, VE9GCS advised there are several Sinclair UHF dipoles in the back room at the clubhouse that can be used if needed.

It was discussed that the members will be advised by an email as to the Jitsi Meet link and that there will be at least one if not two practice runs on the new format prior to the February meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by JP, VE9BK

Ross, VE9GCS will be removing the Silent Key Plaque from the clubhouse and having the names of members and former members who have become silent keys added to the plaque. The names he has are Pat Gilles, VE1PAT, Rick Sullivan, VE9RWS, Jack O'Dell, VE9JK and Bob Anderson, VE9BMA. If there are any names/call signs we are missing, please let Ross know. There was some discussion about putting the Tek-Talk portion of the meetings on hold until after CoVid as the Zoom format is not conducive for such presentations and there has been no member volunteering to chair it after repeat requests for a chairperson. Michel, VE9JFL mentioned that the way forward in amateur radio is through things of a technical nature. Mike, VE9MTV volunteered to chair the Tek-Talk going forward. As before, any members who would like to do a presentation to the MAARC members on anything radio related, please contact Mike.

Under Treasurer's report, the meeting between Larry, VE9ASB and Keith, VE9ELA and JP, VE9ADV has again been put on hold due to the current CoVid lock down. Larry, VE9ASB advised that we have had several new hams join the club and many used E-Transfer and it worked well. He further advised that we have made almost \$100 on bottles and cans since last meeting. Also, any member who has not paid their dues (\$25) who have a key to the clubhouse will have to surrender their key as they are no longer considered a member in good standing. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by JP, VE9BK and seconded by JP, VE9ADV. The motion carried.

JP, VE9BK spoke about CARG holding the Tuesday night message handling practice Net on the VE1RPT repeater with 10 to 11 members participating. He also wanted members to know that this Tuesday, January 25 CARG will be participating in the Nova Scotia Exercise Handshake at 7pm on VHF repeaters in NS and with an HF Station on 80 meters based in Yarmouth, NS. CARG is incorporating Packet Radio into Exercise Handshake. There has been a Thursday night Packet Radio learning group chaired by Michel, VE9JFL. It was on Zoom but has switched to Jitsi Meet. Anyone interested in joining the group, email Michel at ve9jfl@rac.ca for more info. It was mentioned by Stephen, VE9SC that one does not need a packet station to get on packet. By using Tel-Net, one can download OutPost and familiarize oneself with all the commands used on packet radio. For more info on Tel-Net, contact him at VE9SC@VE9SC.com and he will set you up with a password, etc. Stephen advised the speed of Tel-Net is much faster than packet as it is Internet vs RF at 1200 baud rate.

A question was asked to JP, VE9BK about packet vs MESH. He advised that the MESH is the gold standard but the club was not granted a grant to pursue it any further and the club also has a lack of technical experts available to get the MESH system up and running at this time. Something for the future to work on. Mike, VE9MTV has several TNC's headed his way from a ham in BC. He only had to pay to ship them so they will be available soon for the price of shipping. A request was made for Mike, VE9NOM to add to the MAARC website the Thursday night Packet learning sessions now on Jitsi Meet.

Larry, VE9ASB asked if the members wanted to switch to Jitsi Meet vs Zoom as Jitsi Meet has no time limits. The members are in favour of trying Jitsi Meet for the February MAARC Meeting.