

MAARC Monthly Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2021

The first virtual MAARC meeting was conducted via Zoom on March, 20, 2021 at 10 am. There were 27 members in attendance. There was a quick introduction to Zoom by Yvon, VE1VON. Club President Gilles, VE9NW asked for a minute of silence for the silent key of former MAARC member Pat Gillis, VE1PAT.

MAARC President Gilles, VE1NW welcomed everyone and requested a motion to adopt the agenda that had been emailed to the members. Motion to adopt was made by JP, VE9BK and seconded by Frank, VE9FD. The motion passed.

Gilles, VE9NW then asked for JP, VE9BK to go out of turn with the agenda as both JP, VE9BK and his brother, fellow member Marcel, VE9ML were working the Russian Contest. JP, VE9BK stated that as far as his position in Media Relations, it has been a very quite year due to CoVid. He further advised that CARG has not been active other than the Tuesday night practice Net on the 146.880 MHz. repeater and the last CARG event was the Pumpkin Patrol at Halloween last October. He further stated that the Wednesday morning social net on the VE9TCR repeater has an average of 24 check-ins.

President Gilles, VE9NW then asked for the adoption of the minutes of the February, 2020 meeting, as that was our last meeting. The minutes were available on the MAARC website.

Motion to adopt was made by André, VE9ARG and seconded by Yvon, VE1VON. The motion passed. President Gilles, VE9NW then asked for an update on business arising from the minutes. Ross, VE9GCS gave an update on the Yaesu Fusion FTM-400 dualband radio. It has been purchased and is at his brother's place in California. Due to CoVid restrictions on cross-border travel, it will remain there until such time as Ross, VE9GCS can go retrieve it. The cost to ship it and pay the GST on it would be in the range of \$150 so that would negate any savings we got on purchasing it from the states. He also gave an update on the 80 meter sloper antenna that Marcel, VE9ML built and installed. At first, it was not well grounded to the tower so it was not performing well. The resident climber, Jamie, VE9GOM, did climb to work on the Yagi and was able to attach the sloper to the tower so as to give it a good ground and it is working as it should.

MAARC Treasurer Larry, VE9ASB spoke on the members paying their dues via E-transfer and requested members include their call signs on the transfer. He further advised that he does not give receipts on the e-transfers as the bank does provide a receipt. He further stated the cost to mail a member their MAARC membership card is around \$1.50 and if a member has a mail slot at the clubhouse to check it as he puts the cards in their mail slots so as not to incur the cost of mailing it.

Larry, VE9ASB also stated that MAARC might want to stop giving the five dollar discount on MAARC dues if paid before January 1 as with no Flea Market or 50/50 tickets sold at our meetings, the bank account is dropping due to re-occurring monthly expenses. It was stated that due to the possibility of non-MAARC members being on Zoom, there would not be a treasurer's report but any member who wished to receive one could email Larry, VE9ASB and he would provide one. Ross, VE9GCS spoke about contacting the Province of N.B. in Fredericton to see if the club, not being able to host the Flea Market, could receive a forgive able Grant or loan so as to off-set the loss of revenue due to CoVid. Keith, VE9ELA stated that we should remind them that MAARC and CARG have still been active during these CoVid times.

A motion to suspend the \$5 discount on dues paid prior to Jan. 1 was made by Yvon, VE1VON and seconded by Oscar, VE9OSK. The motion passed. Yvon, VE1VON stated there has been no basic course class given at the MAARC clubhouse this past year due to CoVid however he has been directing interested parties to the RAC on-line course and several people in our area are taking it. One person just wrote and passed even though the class has two more weeks to go. He believes that there are two or three others who will be contacting him to write the exam soon.

A thank you from MAARC members to Jamie, VE9GOM and Dave, VE1LPD for being our resident climbers to fix the antennas at the clubhouse. Both have prior climbing experience and we are lucky to

have them. Mike, VE9NOM spoke about the migration of the MAARC website Swap Shop to HamShack.CA which is where the other Maritime clubs are now listing their gear for sale.

Mike, VE9MTV spoke about the vote last year to have the IRG represent all N.B. amateurs when dealing with the province in Fredericton. There was to be an IRG meeting in Doaktown last April but it was cancelled due to CoVid and there has been no movement since then to his knowledge. He stated that 4 clubs and 53 amateurs voted with 45 positive votes and 8 negative votes. Anyone wishing to read the 6 page comments about the vote, send an email to him at VE9MTV@yahoo.com and he will provide it to you. Mike, VE9MTV further advised that the Shediac Bay Repeater, VE9SBR is now linked to the Moncton UHF repeater, VE9SHM which is linked to the Fundy Park Repeater, VE9TCF. The Shediac Bay Repeater is now transmitting at 20 watts output and has a link to enable a two meter SSB radio so those in the Shediac area can join the Sunday night 2 meter SSB Net via the VE9SBR repeater.

JP, VE9ADV had a question about why the executives had not respond to the IRG vote fiasco. He was advised it was not the MAARC executives who had failed to respond but the IRG executives who had dropped the ball.

MAARC Vice President André, VE9ARG has submitted his resignation to President Gilles, VE9NW as he no longer has the time to dedicate to the position. All MAARC members thank him for his service as a past President and current Vice President.

Jack, VE1AIR asked about the possibility of having the Flea Market this year as it is presumed that all will be vaccinated for CoVid by September. Ross, VE9GCS will speak with Jerry Kirkpatrick at the Lion's Club and see if it will be possible. Yvon, VE1VON stated that we should adhere to the Public Health guidelines regarding inside meetings. All agreed. Misha, VE9GIS suggested a possible tailgate flea market. Something to think about, going forward.

Larry, VE9ASB advised that members wishing a key to the clubhouse, all members in good standing can pay \$5 and have a key. It is requested that any members visiting the clubhouse make sure the lights are turned off and the door is securely closed as it sometimes sticks. Ross, VE9GCS will speak with Loren about getting the door fixed.

President Gilles, VE9NW asked about Field Days this June 26/27 and if we should have it at the clubhouse again this year. All members who wish to activate the club callsign, VE9EMM can do so and we have QSL cards to send out to those who request one.

Mike, VE9MTV has a contact for vanity callsign front licence plates for \$25 from a source in Shediac.

Some discussion about running Zoom during the meeting when we get permission to return to the Riverview Fire Hall. Yvon, VE1VON has all that would be required to do it if we decide to do so. Yvon, VE1VON has scheduled re-occurring Zoom meetings every third Saturday of the month going forward.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 10:55 and the meeting was adjourned. Some members stayed around to ragchew about the possibility of hosting the Tek-Talk portion of the meeting on Zoom and Misha, VE9GIS advised there were many subject experts on items dealing with ham radio that we could invite to join our Zoom meeting.