

MAARC Monthly Meeting Minutes – January 2023

The January MAARC Meeting was held on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at the Riverview Fire Station, Riverview, New Brunswick in their Training Room. The call to order was made by President Oscar, VE9OSK at 9:30am followed by a welcome from him to the 23 members in attendance. Introductions by all present were made. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Larry, VE9ASB and seconded by Mike, VE9MTV. The motion carried. The minutes from the December meeting had only one change, that being the cleanup of the MAARC Clubhouse being pushed back to February. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Keith, VE9ELA and seconded by Larry, VE9ASB. The motion carried.

From business arising out of the minutes, Ross, VE9GCS advised that the Silent Key plaque had been to the trophy shop and six MAARC members or former members have been added. Mike, VE9MTV advised that the MAARC members names and call signs are now listed on the website. Also included is the date that their membership expires. Ross, VE9GCS also advised that the call sign VE9MCD, Angus McDonald (SK) was obtained by MAARC and will be used for CARG events. We thank Mike, VE9MTV for sponsoring this call for the club.

Mike, VE9MTV proposed linking the VE9TCR repeater with the Nova Scotia Wake Up Net repeaters, which runs Monday-Friday from 7:30am until 8:30am. It was explained that not every MAARC member has a UHF radio and not everybody can access the Nova Scotia repeaters to check-in. Keith, VE9ELA seconded the motion and it carried with one abstention, no nays. Keith, VE9ELA advised that the club insurance thru RAC has been paid. He further explained the process and coverage MAARC members have thru the club's insurance. He also advised that MAARC is a RAC affiliated club, which costs the club \$200 a year but allows us to participate in benefits like their insurance program.

Some discussion about the VE9MFR Fusion repeater dropping out from time to time. Mike, VE9MTV advised it is not the VE9MFR repeater but the Amherst repeater that is dropping out. Gord, VE1AJF advised that the Packet Radio backbone repeater on Caledonia Mountain stayed online for 3 days with battery backup during the last power outage they had. Our resident climber, Jamie, VE9GOM has taken the broken element from the Yagi at the clubhouse home and was able to repair it. He advised he will need a nice day weather wise to climb and replace it. Mike, VE9MTV advised the Shediac Bay Repeater is off the air until further notice.

MAARC repeater repair Guru, Cam, VE9CAM would like to replace the RLC 4 port repeater controller located at the Fundy Site with the RLC-1 2 port that is at the VE9TCR site. The members agreed that as he is our resident repeater go to guy, we back this decision. Mike, VE9MTV stated we should have a wish list of equipment ready in the event that we are contacted by our local MLA should they have grants to give out. Any ideas for projects that members have, please present them at the February Meeting. Backup power at the repeater site was mentioned.

Ross, VE9GCS advised that JP, VE9BK had sent him a negative report on media relations and advised that the Tuesday night CARG message handling Net was back after a holiday break. It is on Tuesday nights on the VE1RPT (146.880) repeater. The Tek-Talk for January will be on the club's Rig Expert antenna

analyzer and the clubs other test equipment. Both Cam, VE9CAM and Gord, VE1AJF will present. The February meeting will be via Zoom with an ICOM representative on the IC-705 SDR radio and their ID-52a portable transceiver. There is no Tek-Talk yet for March and Gordon, VE9GC will talk on setting up for remote operations.

There was some discussion on the Canadian Amateur Radio license levels. Stephen, VE9SC, our MAARC examiner advised that one can take the different tests in any order they wish but a certificate will not be issued until the basic exam is passed. He further advised that there appears to be a problem with the MAARC website and some providers are issuing a warning about corrupt data. It is believed to be the Adobe forms that are causing the problem. Ross, VE9GCS will talk with Mike, VE9NOM about it.

Mike, VE9MTV proposed that MAARC donate \$100 to the SMART Symposium, as we have done in the past. This proposal was seconded by Gilles, VE9NW. The motion carried. Ross, VE9GCS will contact Jerry of The Lions Club to book the second Saturday in September (Sept. 9), for the MAARC Flea Market 2023. It was requested that the website be updated to show that the VE9TCR repeater is now linked for the West Cumberland Monday Night Net.

A motion to adjourn was made by Danny, VE9DDK. The cash 50/50 draw was won by Danny, VE9DDK with his half of the winnings being \$32

Tek-Talk on the Rig Expert antenna analyzer was presented by Cam, VE9CAM and Gord, VE1AJF was well received and very educational.