

## MAARC Meeting Minutes March 2022

The March MAARC meeting was held at the Lions Club in Riverview on Saturday, March 19 at 10am and was attended by 21 members. MAARC President Oscar, VE9OSK welcomed all and invited all in attendance to introduce themselves. Ross, VE9GCS requested an addition to the agenda at space #13 entitled door lock at the clubhouse. A motion to accept the amended agenda was made by Gordon, VE9GC and seconded by Kenny, VO1KJM. The motion carried. A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made by Mike, VE9MTV and seconded by Jim, VE9KT. The motion carried.

From business a raising out of the minutes, Larry, VE9ASB advised that he had spoken with Adam at RAC on Friday, March 18 regarding the club insurance and he advised that everything had been submitted to the insurance provider and they are expecting acceptance any day now. Some discussion about how to avoid being in a position twice within one year of not having insurance. Ross, VE9GCS will ask Adam at RAC to email him when the insurance is due to run out to avoid being in this position going forward.

The subject of Field Days was brought up. Some discussion about where to setup for maximum exposure to the public. Request that United Rentals donate the use of a generator for the weekend. Glen, VE9GK advised he would loan his generator for FD if we can not secure one from United Rentals. Some discussion about insurance required if we setup at the Champlain Mall or other places. Was advised by both Larry, VE9ASB and Michel, VE9JFL that the RAC insurance should cover us if we do setup there. JP, VE9BK advised for those not familiar with Field Days check the ARRL website at [ARRL.ORG](http://ARRL.ORG) for more information. Still looking for someone to chair the Field Days event. Rod, VE9HV expressed some interest in chairing it and will see if he has the time to do so.

Under the Flea Market, Ross, VE9GCS volunteered to chair the Flea Market and we have already requested the second Saturday in September at the Lions Club. JP, VE9BK reminded all that Harold McFarlane comes every year and if anyone needs any of the many items he sells, contact him and he will bring them over with him to save on shipping charges. The cost of admission will remain at \$5 but sellers will have to pay an addition \$5 as a seller.

Members were asked if they wanted to continue to use the Lions Club for our meetings or return to the Riverview Fire Hall. It was decided that there are advantages to using the Lions Club so we will continue to hold the monthly meetings there. A motion to continue at the Lions Club was made by Gus, VE9GUS and seconded by Gordon, VE9GC. The motion passed.

Mike, VE9MTV advised that Gus, VE9GUS had recently moved and that he had donated his antennas, tripods and coax with copper ground wires to MAARC for MAARC members to purchase with the proceeds going to MAARC. Thank you very much Gus. Some items have already been sold but there is a tripod, some coax and a G5RV antenna and the ground wires still available to members who might wish to purchase them.

Treasurer's report from Larry, VE9ASB. Anyone interested in taking over as club treasurer, please let Larry know. E transfer is working nicely for members paying their dues. He reminded all that the \$5 discount that was offered for those paying their dues before December 31 has been cancelled and all dues are now \$25. The current balance is the same but we have not yet paid for the club insurance which should be approx. \$1,500 a year. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Kenny, VO1KJM and seconded by Frank, VE9FD. The motion carried.

JP, VE9BK advised that the CARG Tuesday night message handling Net is still taking place on the VE1RPT repeater at 7pm with an average of 10 people checking in. Regarding Media Relations, he reminds members to let him or Webmaster Mike, VE9NOM if there is anything that needs updating or changing. He also advised that RAC is changing the name of the Maritime Section now that PEI has requested to be known as PEI. This followed that Nova Scotia has requested that their section be changed from Maritime to Nova Scotia. New Brunswick clubs are now in discussion to do the same. JP, VE9BK volunteered to be the NB representative to RAC and needs 10 RAC members to nominate him. If you are a RAC member and would like to support a MAARC member being the NB Section representative, email him at [medals2@yahoo.com](mailto:medals2@yahoo.com) and he will add your name to the list.

Keith, VE9ELA started a discussion about the viability of the emergency repeater trailer and should MAARC even have any vehicles registered to it. The trailer has been kept since before CoVid at the Riverview water tower and has not moved. A battery charged was attached but the condition of the batteries is unknown. There are no brakes on the trailer and it is described as tongue heavy and hard to haul. Also, there is no insurance on the trailer. President Oscar requests that several people form a committee to inspect the radio gear, the batteries and solar panels and the overall condition of the trailer before we decide if we wish to keep it or part it out. Also, Yvon, VE1VON asked a valid question about who knows how to set it up and get it operating on the air? Mike, VE9MTV stated with 3 repeaters in the Moncton area with backup power, do we even need it? Michel, VE9JFL asked what if another club up north needed it for a winter weather emergency. Questions were asked does EMO or other clubs even know we have the trailer and who would be responsible for transporting it to an area outside of Moncton. Ross, VE9GCS will speak with Andrea, VE9ARG about it as he was one of the last members to have any dealing with it before CoVid. JP, VE9BK would votes to keep it for CARG but he realizes it is MAARC property and MAARC must decide how best to deal with it. A committee consisting of Yvon, Keith, Misha and JP will inspect it and get back to the members with their findings.

Keith, VE9ELA also spoke about the possibility of changing the door lock at the clubhouse to a digital keypad. Every member would have a PIN and the computer would take who has been coming and going. Also, any member who does not pay their dues can be removed from access to the clubhouse. He is not sure of the cost associated with this type of system but he will advise us. Rod, VE9HV suggested the RF ID type of card door lock, which may be cheaper. A motion for Keith to continue to examine both types of locks was made by Rod, VE9HV and seconded by Oscar, VE9OSK. The motion carried.

Keith, VE9ELA also put a question out to the members to think about what kind of club do they want to have going forward? Are we going to continue to support EMO or do we just want to be a social club? Kenny, VO1KJM stated that we should support EMO but not as labourers filling sandbags but performing communications, which is our strong suite.

Mike, VE9MTV advised that next month the Tek-Talk will be given by Michel, VE9JFL and it will involve Packet Radio in emergency communications. Mike also ask the members to consider setting up a repeater maintenance fund with the donated money only going to the upkeep of the 5 repeaters MAARC owns. A motion to look info establishing just such a fund was made by Mike, VE9MTV and seconded by Keith, VE9ELA. The motion carried.

A motion to advance the time of the monthly meeting from 10am to 9:30am was made by Cam, VE9CAM and seconded by Jim, VE9KT. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Oscar, VE9OSK and the meeting closed at 12 noon.

The cash 50/50 draw was won by Keith, VE9ELA and he donated his winnings back to the club. Larry advised the amount to the club was \$75