

MEETING OF THE ST. CROIX VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

March 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Sanford at 1730 hours via Zoom.

Checking in were:

Mike Sanford, KB1GEO, President

Roger Holst, W1LH,

Maurry Mills, W1FWS, Secretary

Alan Andraeas, K1ALA, Vice President

Rick MacMillon, Treasurer, VE9MTB

Peter Stackpole, N1MLE

Ann Carter, KB1RQH

Ken Carter, WA1DXO

Rick MacMillon presented the Treasurer's Report; balances shown below:

Camden Bank Checking Account – balance as of 1/31/2022	\$3952.43
Cash on hand	204.50
Paypal	299.20
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Total	\$4456.13

We have about \$200 more today than we did at the same time last year.

There was some discussion about the \$3.00/month fee the bank is charging for our checking account. Rick and Roger will look into this.

The bank also now offers online banking; Roger has the paperwork to submit if it will benefit the club. One possible advantage would be the ability to transfer funds from Paypal into our checking account.

The Secretary's Report for February and prior meetings is on the club website www.stcroixvalleyamateurradioclub.org

There were no additions or questions on the February Secretary's Report. Roger will meet with Maurry to go over posting the monthly meeting notes on the club web page.

The next item discussed was the \$500 scholarship the Club funds for a student at the Washington Community College. Ann made a motion that we fund the scholarship, which was seconded by Roger. After some discussion the decision to do the scholarship this year was unanimous.

The College just needs to know that we will fund the scholarship and the amount at this point so they can screen candidates. Alan will notify them and the details of getting the check to them will be worked out between Rick, Alan, and Roger. When the border crossing restrictions are eased up in April it will facilitate Rick coming to Calais to do banking. It was noted that the last time we offered a scholarship was 2020.

Payment for insurance (\$200/yr.) provided to the ARRL will be due in June.

Since the April monthly meeting would fall on Easter Sunday it was decided to move the meeting until the following Sunday, April 24 at 5:30 P.M. It will be at the Legion Hall on Front Street in Pembroke. Alan will arrange for access to the building since Ann and Ken won't be able to attend. Directions to the Legion Hall in Pembroke will be sent out via email.

Mike will demonstrate the use of his loop antenna and QRP rig at the April meeting. The loop antenna is only 3 feet in diameter and fits on a small tripod.

The Fox Hunt will be held the same day as the May monthly meeting.

Mike reported that he has continued work on the digital award. There was some discussion about which modes would qualify as digital.

Ken suggested that the Pembroke Legion #59 sponsor an ARES "club". It was noted that ARES is not a club but the Legion could provide a facility and equipment for use in an emergency situation. They have a generator that will power the entire building, a shower in the basement, and a kitchen. The Town of Meddybemps may also be looking for a facility to use in the event of an emergency.

Phil noted that the Washington County ARES will have a meeting in Machias soon, and maybe another informational meeting in Pembroke in the future.

It was decided to notify members of the Pembroke Legion of our April 24 meeting, and invite those interested to attend. Phil offered to talk about ARES and any other issues of interest.

Roger reminded us that Field Day is around the end of June. The first choice for a site would be the Alexander School. Roger will check about the use of the school since he is a resident of Alexander, as well as Tom and Pedro.

Other potential sites are the Charlotte Fire Station, Pembroke Legion Hall, and Calais Recreation Property. None of these sites is as high as Alexander, but that may not be such an issue on the HF bands and not many contacts are made on VHF.

Roger reported that he will turn over the hard copies of minutes (Vol. IV) he has to Maury. Despite his efforts he has not been able to get Volumes I, II, and III.

Phil noted that the Androscoggin Ham Fest and ARRL State Convention will be on April 1 and 2. Phil will be there with a table during most of the event. He also discussed a meeting about an ordinance limiting communications towers in Jonesboro. It is in response to the tower array recently constructed right off US Route 1 in Jonesboro.

There have been other “antenna farms” built in Jonesport, Lubec, Eastport, and Robbinston. Some of these sites are constructed to be available for rent and remote use by hams from other locations,

The Jonesboro ordinance would require a permit from the planning board and posting a bond to cover removal of the antennas and tower(s) in the event the owner left the residence. There may be other towns that will seek to write similar ordinances which would restrict ham operations.

There are also anti 5G groups who are working to limit/eliminate all RF emissions. There was a law proposed in NH with a scheduled vote before ham radio proponents were able to intervene and get the vote delayed.

Everyone should check with their town offices to see if any similar ordinances are being proposed. Phil will discuss the issue in more detail during the monthly

meeting of the Maine Ham Radio Society, via zoom, at 6:00 P.M. on Monday,
March 21.

The meeting was concluded at 6:43 P.M. by President Mike Sanford.

Respectfully submitted,
Maury Mills, Secretary