

# MEETING OF THE ST. CROIX VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 20, 2022

Calais Veterans Hall, Calais, ME

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Sanford at 1732 hours.

Present were:

Mike Sanford, KB1GEO, President

Maurry Mills, W1FWS, Secretary

Roger Holst, W1LH

Anne Carter, KB1RQH

Ken Carter, WA1DXO

Pedro Ceijas, WA4KEO

Charlie Dix, W0AQ

The Secretary's Report for the October, and prior meetings is on the club website [www.stcroixvalleyamateurradioclub.com](http://www.stcroixvalleyamateurradioclub.com)

The Club Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 3, at 1:00 P.M. in the banquet room of Fitzgerald's Pub/Restaurant (location of old Town House Restaurant), located across the street from the Veterans Hall. We will order from the menu which may be viewed on their Facebook page. They offer pizza, fish and chips, various sandwiches, and sometimes have daily specials. Family of members are also welcome to attend the party.

The Party will consist of the meal, a report from the nominating committee, and some good conversation. If some individuals wish to exchange gifts among themselves that is fine but there will be no organized gift exchange.

Anne and Ken Carter volunteered to be the nominating committee. They will make a report during the December 3 Christmas party. Elections of officers for 2023 will be held during the January 2023 meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted during the January meeting. Mike said he would like to step down as president.

Club officers include the president, two vice presidents (typically one has been from the US and one from Canada), treasurer, and secretary.

After some discussion, motions, and a vote, it was decided that until further notice, future club meetings will be held on the third Sunday of the month at 5:30 P.M. at the Calais Veterans Hall. It was thought that a consistent time and place for the meeting would be beneficial and may increase participation.

It was suggested that maybe a few meetings during the summer months may be held at the Pembroke Legion, given their interest in establishing more of an amateur radio presence and participation in Washington County ARES.

There was some discussion about the separate identities of the Club and ARES. Roger explained that ARES is an ARRL program. There are only 10-12 official ARES members in Washington County and most are club members.

Roger also mentioned that ARRL highly recommends that each club have a Public Information Office (PIO). It was mentioned that local papers and radio station announcers are usually very receptive to public interest stories, such as our amateur radio activities. It was suggested that Alan would make a good PIO.

There was some discussion about the impacts of COVID on participation in club meetings and activities. Many people sought out or renewed their interests in hobbies, including HAM radio, while they were in quarantine or staying at home due to the pandemic. Participation in the club, and in many other organizations, has not returned to pre-COVID levels. It was noted that it is particularly difficult to get younger people involved in many activities and organizations.

Charlie suggested that we consider sending a letter, and questionnaire to all licensed hams in the general Calais/St. Stephen area, letting them know about the club and asking them about their interests related to amateur radio. It was suggested that the cost of doing such a mailing would be worth the cost and effort if we attracted even five new members. Charlie agreed to draft a letter and sample questionnaire for review by club members.

It was noted that annual dues are payable soon. Anyone who hasn't paid by March is no longer considered a member of the club. Dues are \$15/yr for individuals and

\$20/yr for a family. Dues may be paid via PayPal, information may be found on the club web site.

Roger noted that Phil Duggan, N1EP, will be putting on a technician license class via Zoom. He has asked for help in presenting the class, and finding interested participants.

Given that no one had any additional business or items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Mike at 1835.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maury Mills, Secretary