

# MEETING OF THE ST. CROIX VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

January 22, 2023

Calais Veterans Hall, Calais, ME

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

Present were:

Mike Sanford, KB1GEO, President  
Dick Smith, VE9HX, Vice President  
Rick MacMillan, VE9MTB, Treasurer  
Maurry Mills, W1FWS, Secretary  
Roger Holst, W1LH  
Anne Carter, KB1RQH  
Ken Carter, WA1DXO  
Pedro Ceijas, WA4KEO  
Charlie Dix, W0AQ  
Phil Duggan, N1EP, ARRL Section Manager  
Brenda Duggan, N1ZPV

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

The first order of business was the election of officers for 2023.

The nominating committee (Ann and Ken Carter) had provided the following list of nominees at the December meeting:

Roger Holst, President  
Charlie Dix, Vice President 1  
Dick Smith, Vice President 2  
Rick MacMillan, Treasurer  
Maurry Mills, Secretary

There was a call for nominations from the floor but there were none.

Phil made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee; the motion was seconded by Ken. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous to elect the new slate of officers.

Roger took over as president and asked those present to thank Mike for his service as president over the past five years (since February 17, 2018), which included the tough times during the COVID pandemic. Mike was given a round of applause for his past service to the club.

Maurry read the **Secretaries Report** for the December meeting, which included the annual Christmas Party. There were no questions or corrections and the report was accepted as read and presented on the club web site.

Rick presented a **Treasurers Report**:

Bank Account:	\$3,349.37
Cash:	400.27
PayPal:	394.82
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$4,144.46

He said that there were the following changes since the last report:

- Five people paid membership dues
- We made a \$100 donation to the Veterans Hall in memory of Chaplain Sivret
- Bank service fees were \$9.00 (\$3/mo); no interest is paid.

There were no questions and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurers Report. It was accepted by unanimous vote.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business:**

**Dues:** The next item discussed was the dues for 2023. The current dues are \$15/year for an individual and \$20/yr for a family. Ken made a motion to set the dues at \$10/yr for an individual and \$15/yr for a family. There was no second and the motion died. It was noted that we may need the income at the present amount if we are going to continue, or increase, our annual contribution to a student at WCCC.

Dick made a motion to maintain the current dues rate. It was seconded by Ann. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed with one member in opposition. Dues will remain at \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

There was a proposal to change the monthly meeting time to an earlier hour, such as 1 or 2 PM. There was some discussion and some members would not be able to attend earlier meetings due to work schedules. The decision was to keep the 5:30 P.M. meeting time.

**PIO:** The next item discussed was the need for a Public Information Officer (PIO). Phil spoke about the benefits to the club and said that the ARRL provides training as well as templates for press releases. Having more publicity would promote the club and ham radio in general. Activities such as Field Day, World HAM Day (April 18 this year), club elections, and the September Ham Fest could be highlighted in the local papers.

Phil had offered to serve as our PIO, but he is already serving in that role for the Maine Ham Radio Society and the Ellsworth Ham club. To be an official PIO you must be a member of the ARRL. Roger decided to appoint Charlie Dix as the club's PIO. All present were in favor of the appointment.

**Phil Duggan, N1EP, ARRL Section Manager** reported on the following:

He noted there was a new PIO for Maine; there is an effort to get more YL's (female ham operators) active. Women Radio Operators of Maine is actively promoting more YLs on the air.

KW1A is looking for volunteer ham operators to assist with the CAN AM Dog sled races on March 4-6, 2023. Interested individuals may contact him directly at [KW1A@ARRL.net](mailto:KW1A@ARRL.net).

Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) is active, participating stations are trying to make as many contacts as possible. Individual operators can earn points and certificates by contacting ARRL officials. W1AW will be operating portable for a 2 week period in all 50 states. W1AW will be portable in Maine in September and December. You can see which states are activated when by checking on the VOTA web site.

Phil distributed some small cards that can be given to people with an interest in ham radio. Some cards have the club information on the back, others are blank and so we can provide our contact information if desired.

KW4ECW is the new Maine ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) Coordinator. All members are encouraged to complete an application and become a member of ARES. Roger, Maurry, and Rick are currently the only official ARES members in the club. Roger thanked Phil for his report on the various topics.

**Web Site and Survey:** Charlie spoke about his idea to send a letter and survey to all hams in our part of Washington County and Charlotte County New Brunswick.

One of the goals is to get more interested people on both sides of the border active in the club and its activities. He noted that as a result of COVID a number of people returned to ham radio as well as other activities.

A second goal would be to sponsor an hour long meeting for anyone interested to describe what ham radio is all about and describe the variety of activities hams can pursue.

A third goal is to have a more interactive web site; more good information is likely to attract more people.

There was some discussion about the cost of mailing the letter and survey; with the recent increase in postage it could be about \$100. It was decided that Charlie and others would put together a list of hams on the US side and Rick and Dick would work on a list from the Canadian side. They could filter out Silent Keys and individuals who have moved away. It was also suggested that we try an email letter and questionnaire first.

Charlie is also working on a new web page. We should try and get the .org address back.

Roger asked the group if the club is interested in doing **Field Day** this year; the dates are June 24 and 25, 2023. He has already reserved the Alexander School

site. There was interest and the club will plan to do field day. In 2022 we had a low score, we were the fifth lowest out of the six Maine clubs that participated last year.

The group also agreed to host the annual **Ham Fest at the Alexander School** on September 16, 2023. Roger will reserve the school. Motions were made and seconded to participate in both events and there was a unanimous vote.

Roger asked if the club would be interested in having the National Weather Service (NWS) put on **Weather Spotter Training**. NWS personnel had said they would put on the training since they need help assessing the weather in the Washington County/Downeast Region. There is a gap in weather radar coverage in our area.

NWS is relying on information received from the public via Twitter, Facebook, and their 1-800 number.

It was noted that to be useful weather data reported via nets or other means must be accurate to be useful, Snow measurements must be made at several locations and follow an established protocol.

Roger will look into getting Weather Spotter Training for the club.

Other events coming up include **Winter Field Day on Saturday, January 28, 2023**. The rules are similar to the regular field day held in June.

Members of the Maine Ham Radio Society (MHRS) and Washington County ARES will participate in a drill from the EOC in Machias at 9 AM on Saturday. After the drill they will attempt to make contacts on the HF bands. Interference may be an issue.

### **Upcoming Events:**

February 11 is the Annual Boat Anchor Ham Fest in Augusta.

March 24 & 25 is the Maine State Convention and Ham Fest in Lewiston

April 22 Ham Radio Symposium in Ellsworth; topics may include Node Radio; QRP; repurposing old computer equipment for use in the shack

April 28 is the Nearfest Ham Fest in Deerfield, NH

Phil suggested that a goal of the club might be to do some events across the border since we are an international club and the restrictions due to COVID have been relaxed. At one point there had been an activity at the lighthouse in Campobello planned but never took place.

Rick reported that the 2 meter repeater that had been on Grand Manan is being moved to Campobello. This should improve connection to the IRG system. It will be on 146.955.

The meeting was closed by Roger at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maury Mills, Secretary