

MEETING OF THE ST. CROIX VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 19, 2023

Calais Veterans Hall, Calais, ME

Present were:

Roger Holst, W1LH, President
Dick Smith, VE9HX, Vice President
Charlie Dix, , W0AQ, Vice President
Rick MacMillan, VE9MTB , Treasurer
Maurry Mills, W1FWS, Secretary
Pedro Ceijas, WA4KEO
Mike Sanford, KB1GEO
Ann Carter, KB1RQH
Ken Carter, WA1DXO
Ralph Hicks, KA1FUE
Kevin Stanhope, KA1VKQ

Secretaries Report

Maurry read the highlights of the October 15 meeting; the minutes were accepted as read and are posted on the club web site.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the following balances:

Bank Account, as of 10/31/23:	\$2919.37
PayPal Account as of 11/19/23:	\$ 443.32
Cash on Hand as of 11/19/23:	\$ 145.50
<u>Spectrum Defense Fund as of 11/19/23:</u>	<u>\$ 67.00</u>
Total	\$3575.19

Rick explained that this is where we normally are for this time of year. We basically broke even for the Ham Fest, which is normally the case.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by all present.

Spectrum Defense Fund Raffle

Roger has tickets for the raffle of a variety of items including several ARRL publications. Tickets are \$5.00/each or 6 for \$20.00. Roger has sold \$100 in

tickets so far; Phil Duggan made a donation of \$20 to the fund. The winning ticket will be drawn during the Christmas Party.

New Members

One individual applied for membership in the club: Edward Paradis, WI1Z, from Old Town, a vendor at the ham fest. There was a unanimous vote to accept Ed into the club.

For anyone interested in getting their ham license, we do have volunteer examiners who can provide testing. It was also noted that Phil Duggan, N1EP, usually has a technician class on zoom over the winter months.

Nominating Committee Report

Ann and Ken Carter are the nominating committee; Ann reported that with the exception of the vice president position from the US side, all incumbent officers have agreed to serve another year. The search for a new vice president will continue. Nominations from the floor can be made at the club's first meeting in 2024.

Christmas Party

The annual Club Christmas Party will be at Fitzgerald's Restaurant, just across the street from our meeting place. It will start at 2:00 P.M. At least 20 people have signed up to date. We can order from either of several menus except for the prime rib. Pedro noted that he will need a ride.

Special Event at St. Croix Island International Historic Site

Next year, 2024, will be the 420th anniversary of the arrival of settlers on St Croix Island. Roger proposed that the club do a special event to commemorate the anniversary. We would probably set up in the parking area. Roger will contact park staff regarding any needed permissions. We would request the use of special call sign W1S. The club has done a similar event at the park in the past. If we had problems with getting permission we could always operate from Roger's cottage. There was a unanimous vote to continue with planning to conduct the special event.

Changes to Meeting Dates and Times

Roger suggested that we reduce the number of meetings given the low attendance at some meetings. We could skip some meetings during the winter months when weather can be a problem. After some discussion it was proposed that our next meeting be in March 2024. We would skip the January, February, and April meetings.

It was also suggested that the meeting time be moved to 2:00 PM to avoid night time driving. The elections of new officers will be at the March meeting, which will remain the third Sunday of the month. We can conduct some necessary business at the Christmas party.

These changes were unanimously accepted by a vote of all members present.

Upcoming Events

There will be a statewide Parks on the Air day on May 18, 2024. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to activate a local state or federal park, or wildlife area.

Organizers of the Can Am Dog Sled Race are looking for a new person to coordinate ham radio operators who provide communications for the event at check stations throughout the race route.

The CQ World Wide CW DX contest is on November 24-26, 2023, local time.

The Maine State ARRL Convention will be at the Augusta Civic Center in 2024. The former location is no longer available. There is a raffle for a Honda generator to help raise funds for the new location, which will be more expensive to rent.

Mike suggested that the club host another fox hunt in 2024.

Dues

Those members present voted unanimously to maintain the current dues rates: \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family

Donation to Veterans Center

There was a suggestion that we make a donation to the Veteran's Center for the use of their building for our meetings. We made a \$100 donation in memory of David

Siveret around the same time last year. All present voted unanimously to make a \$100 donation to the Calais Veteran's Center.

ARRL Insurance

There was a change in the carrier of the ARRL insurance for clubs. It costs us \$200/year; we are covered through May 31, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 1825 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Maury Mills, Secretary