

York County Amateur Radio Club

Minutes from the March 12, 2023 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1505 hours by Club President Rick Alderette, KB1ASM.

Others present were:

Bruce Washburn, KC1RUJ;

Dave Johnson, AA1LO;

Tony Baker, AA3HD;

Zach Madore, KC1SES;

Dan Merrifield, K1DQ;

Bill Catanesye, KB1CAT;

Roger Pience, N1XP;

Cindy Halbett, unlicensed;

Ken Hasenbank, N0IZE;

Susan Bloomfield, WB2UQP;

Paul Cormier, KC1NQU;

Susan Cormier, KC1NQT;

Michael Robinson, KC1SET;

Stephen Barrett, KC1HPB;

Brad Brown, Jr., KC1JMH, and;

Jordan Brown (unlicensed son of KC1JMH.)

Rick, KB1ASM opened the meeting by having those present introduce themselves along with their call signs.

Following introductions, Rick, KB1ASM recessed the business portion of the meeting, and turned the floor over to Roger, N1XP to make his informative presentation on Grounding and Bonding. The presentation focused on safety for yourself and your equipment, and gave examples of correct and incorrect grounding and bonding. The presentation gave practical information for setting up one's HAM shack. References for Roger's presentation included the National Electric Code (NEC), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and Motorola. The presentation stimulated numerous questions, and points of discussion, including a point that Susan, WB2UQP made that many amateur radio operators may not be receiving the best information from fellow amateur operators. Steve, KC1NPB, and Dave, AA1LO were able to offer valuable commentary during the discussions. At the end of the presentation, Roger pointed out that there are many good articles on grounding and bonding on the club website, and also renewed a call to club members to provide photos of their HAM shacks for posting on the club website. Roger was given a resounding round of applause at the end of the presentation.

Following the Grounding and Bonding presentation, Rick, KB1ASM returned to the business portion of the meeting at approximately 1545. Rick asked Jim, KC1ETT for the Treasurer's report. Jim reported the club had \$834.78. Since the last report, the club had spent \$100.00 in the form of a donation to SK former club member Paul's (KY1C) W1BHR repeater group. Rick asked Jim if the Pine Tree Council had cashed their \$100.00 check and Jim said yes they had. Jim said there also were deposits yet to be made to the club's account, but did not specify how much they were. Susan, WB2UQP informed the club that her husband's canoe club had recently set up an online PayPal account to make paying dues easier, but had run into an issue whereby PayPal was going to be taxing the canoe club. Susan wanted to be sure our club did not run into the same pitfalls by setting up an online PayPal account to pay dues. Rick informed Susan that he was in the process of updating IRS records to reflect the new club name, York County Amateur Radio Club, and indications are that the club is a tax exempt organization.

Rick, KB1ASM asked Roger, N1XP if he wanted to expound on any of the points he had put out to the club in his email notes as Committee Chair for Testing, Licensing, and Education. Roger asked those in attendance to consider if they wanted to host another VE session, possibly in May? There was no immediate response to this suggestion. Regarding the packet system, Brad, KC1JMH stated that information as to its status could be found at Mainepacketradio.org. Regarding the Maine Mesh Network, Roger stated that Maine had made its first monthly report following a grant it had received, and would be making a presentation at the Maine ARRL Hamfest in Lewiston on March 25th at 10:00AM. Dan, K1DQ commented that the Mesh Network in New Hampshire is working well, but tests using his tower hadn't gone so good. A copy of Roger's email report is attached to the hard-copy of these minutes.

With regards to programs at future in-person meetings, Rick, KB1ASM, received a commitment from Brad, KC1JMH to do a presentation on portable station power at the May meeting. For the April in-person meeting, it had been proposed that we have "show-and-tell" with each member bringing in something to share with the club. However, this was superseded, and it was decided that Joe, W1SK, ARRL officer from the Maine Section, would be speaking to us about the pros and cons of being an ARRL-affiliated club. The club currently is not ARRL-affiliated. In addition to Joe, the club will be having pizza and soda. Dave, AA1LO said he would take care of ordering and picking up the pizza and sodas, but insisted that there be an email sent out with a required RSVP to see how many would be coming. Rick, KB1ASM agreed to sending out such an email. A motion was made and seconded to use club funds to reimburse Dave, AA1LO for the cost of the pizza and sodas for this event. Susan, KC1NQT asked if homemade desserts also could be brought, and that was agreed to.

As Public Information Officer, Rick KB1ASM, informed the club that he had applied for a table at the Maine ARRL Hamfest in Lewiston on 24/25 March 2023, so as to be able to represent the club there, and to provide information about the club. There was no cost for the table. Tony, AA3HD passed around a copy of the application so the club could see what it looked like. Tony, and Bruce, KC1RUJ will also be attending the Hamfest with Rick, who will be bringing the club's banner. Roger, N1XP agreed to get 100 club brochures printed up to take to the Hamfest at no cost to the club. Regarding 2023 Field Day operations, Rick said he had put in an application with the town of Hollis to use the recreation center. Rick will have to meet with Hollis Town Officials before approval of the application. There should be no cost to the club. Bill, KB1CAT said he could bring his refitted ambulance to use as a base of operations. Rick noted that he would soon be meeting with the club Field Day Committee, and they would be discussing such things as set-up, safety, etc. Tony suggested that the club have a back-up plan in case the Hollis application was not approved, and Dave, AA1LO indicated that he probably would be able to get one of several sites in Wells, including the harbor, or possibly the recreation field. Lastly, Rick asked if the club wanted to operate 24 hours for Field Day or not. Tony and Bruce, KC1RUJ said they would be willing to work the station through the night.

Rick, KB1ASM called for approval of the minutes from the February 5, 2023 meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and was approved by a majority of those present without descent.

Rick, KB1ASM asked Bill, KB1CAT to talk about the club setting up at the Trolley Museum. Bill envisioned us setting up near the Visitor's Center with his refitted ambulance a focal point of operations. We could have VHF simplex, HF, and DMR radios operational for visitors to see and use if they wanted to. The operations will be on 27 August 2023. Bill requested a re-write of the non-descript, generic description on the Museum website of what our club would be doing that day. Dave, AA1LO, and Dan, K1DQ agreed to get a re-write on the club email reflector as soon as possible for club members to review and edit if necessary.

Rick, KB1ASM brought up the topic of whether or not the club should be ARRL-affiliated. After much discussion, it was decided that those club members going to the upcoming Hamfest in Lewiston would talk to ARRL officials at the Hamfest, and that Joe, W1SK would address the club in-person at the April 2023 meeting, (see above), to talk about the pros and cons of such an affiliation.

Regarding the club station, Dave, AA1LO stated that they are still waiting to get an antenna up, but that the BPQ node and FSQCall are working fine.

Tony, AA3HD announced that he had received an application from Zachary Madore, KC1SES to become a member of the club. Since Zach is a newly licensed amateur

radio operator, he has no dues for the first year of his membership. A motion was made and seconded for a vote to be taken on Zach's application to become a member of the club. Zach was approved as a member of the club by a majority of those present with no descents, and given a round of applause.

Rick, KB1ASM then opened the floor to any other discussion. Brad, KC1JMH mentioned that volunteers are needed during the 4/5 August 2023 Old Home Day in Waterboro. The nature of the volunteers' jobs is unknown, but Brad thought it might be to direct traffic, or point out parking areas. The event takes place at the Massabesic Middle School. Brad also mentioned that on 4/5 August 2023 the Cumberland County EMA is looking for help during the Beach to Beacon event.

Paul, KC1NQU won the door prize.

At 16:48 a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a majority of those present with no descents.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Baker, AA3HD, Secretary, York County Amateur Radio Club

Attachment to file copy: Roger, N1XP 07 MAR 2023 email with attachment