

York County Amateur Radio Club

Minutes from the April 02, 2023 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1510 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;

Ernie Record, KB4EFX;

Joe Grace, W1SK;

Jim White, KC1ETT;

Paul Cormier, KC1NQU;

Susan Cormier, KC1NQT;

Michelle Hirsch, K1MPH;

Ronald Hirsch, KR1K;

David Wood, KB1FGF;

Peter Hatem, KB1HBM;

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 turned the floor over to Joe, W1SK who gave an overview of the benefits of becoming an ARRL-affiliated club. Joe is the Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Maine Section of the ARRL. Joe encouraged individuals to join ARRL and encouraged the club to become ARRL-affiliated in order to have a voice in making ARRL what you want it to be. Some of the benefits Joe specifically mentioned included receiving free promotional material for Field Day, hamfest endorsement, rebates to the club for club members who join or renew ARRL membership, reduced fee for listing an event in *QST* magazine, and no-cost to be ARRL-affiliated. Dave, AA1LO commented that many of the articles in *QST* are of an advanced nature and are not necessarily understandable to beginning hams. Joe agreed with Dave, and said that *On the Air* magazine is designed more for the new ham, but stressed that even though as an ARRL member you can only receive a print copy of one of the ARRL magazines, you can receive digital copies of all of them. Dave, AA1LO also stressed the importance

of getting young people into the hobby, as well as getting amateur radio into the schools. Joe agreed. Lastly, Joe will email the specific requirements of becoming an ARRL-affiliated club to Tony, AA3HD.

Following Joe's presentation, Rick, KB1ASM asked Jim, KC1ETT for the Treasurer's report. Jim reported the club had \$834.78. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report which was approved by a majority of those present without descent.

Rick, KB1ASM next called on 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 stated that the club will be welcomed back to the Alfred Shaker Festival this fall. Roger said that 11 had signed up for his soldering class. He also mentioned that he is planning a Technician's class for the fall at the Massabesic Center, and that he would give an Extra class if he could get at least five to sign up. He stated that there were three VE sessions coming: 29 April - PBARC; 01 May - Merrymeeting ARA, and; 06 May - Waterville Area Wireless Association. In terms of the W1YCA website, Roger mentioned that he has been working with Tony, AA3HD for an online club application form. Roger stated that the May presentation will be made by Brad, KC1JMH, and the June presentation will focus on Field Day. Roger mentioned that a packet network is in operation between Bald Mountain, GA, and Mt. Katahdin, and that a presentation of the Maine mesh network was given at the Maine convention in Lewiston on March 24/25. The MESH Networking Group has received a \$41,000.00 grant. A copy of Roger's emailed report to the club members is attached to the hard-copy of these minutes. Lastly, Roger mentioned that he had been in contact with John, WA1KLI, who is an adjunct professor at the York County Community College (YCCC) with regards to introducing ham radio into the curriculum there. The general consensus of the YCARC membership present was that we should proceed with pursuing this potential 'opening' for the club and ham radio.

Following Roger's presentation, Rick, KB1ASM called for approval of the minutes from the March 12, 2023 meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and was approved by a majority of those present without descent.

As Public Information Officer, Rick KB1ASM, informed the club that he has not yet heard from the Town of Hollis regarding the club's application to use the recreation area for Field Day operations, but Rick thinks the town will be meeting this coming week, and we should have an answer then. Dave, AA1LO stated that should the Hollis location not work out, he had a back-up location ready to go.

Rick, KB1ASM, called on Michelle, K1MPH to give an update on what the Field Day Committee had done thus far. Basically, Michelle stated that a number of sign-up sheets for volunteers for the various areas, aspects, and needs for doing Field Day operations have been completed. This included such things as equipment needs, operators, power sources, food, and safety. Brad, KC1JHM also mentioned that we also should have a greeter, do a press release, have youth activities and an educational aspect, and decide if we were going to have a Get On The Air (GOTA) opportunity. In terms of food, Dave, KB1FGF commented that his wife probably could make whoopee pies. Roger, N1XP said he would put the sign-up sheets on the website, as well as sending them out to the membership via the email reflector.

On a separate topic, Brad, KC1JMH mentioned that if the club was willing to help out with Waterboro Home Days, we could probably set up an information table there. Help is needed with parking during the event that is August 4-5, 2023. If interested, the club should notify Brad, whose wife is on the Planning Committee, and he will let her know.

Regarding new business, Rick, KB1ASM said the club needed to decide on whether or not we wanted to be ARRL-affiliated. Tony, AA3HD made a motion to postpone such a vote until our next meeting in order to give the club membership time to think about such a decision. The motion was seconded, and passed by a majority of those present without descent.

Rick, KB1ASM, then turned the floor over to Tony, AA3HD, who turned the floor over to Peter, KC1HBM. Peter is the State Government Liaison for the Maine Section of the ARRL. Peter spoke about the efforts of a group almost entirely made up of people from outside the state of Maine to get a bill (LD-697/HP-466) passed in Maine to study the effects of 5G technology on bird, bee, and insect populations and the effects of long-term exposure on children. Peter mentioned a similar bill that had recently come up in New Hampshire which had wording that affected the ham bands, and we shouldn't let that happen here in Maine. Peter handed out information regarding the bill as well as suggested wording of a letter that could be sent to your local state representatives asking them to ensure that the Amateur Radio Service does not get affected by the bill. Peter stated that if you contacted him, he could tell you who your state representatives are if you provided him your address. Peter's email address is available on QRZ.com. Dan, K1DQ commented that he thought the FCC authority preempted state legislation on such things. Dave, AA1LO asked if we should send the letters to legislators as a club, or as individuals. Peter said we should send them as individuals and that we could call our representatives as well. Zach, KC1SES noted that state legislators regard only 5 or 6 letters as a high number on a particular bill, the implication being that if we all sent in a letter that would be noticed. Peter stated that the state legislative committee looking at the bill is the Energy, Utility, and Technology Committee.

Dave, KB1FGF stated that he had an Icom 440 that he picked up at the convention in Lewiston and wondered if anyone knew had to program it. If so, they could have it.

Peter, KC1HBM won the door prize.

At 16:17, Rick, KB1ASM adjourned the meeting.

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

Attachments to file copy: Roger, N1XP 02 APR 2023 email with attachment, and info sheet handed out by Peter, KC1HBM.