

# York County Amateur Radio Club

## Minutes from the May 07, 2023 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1502 hours by Club President Rick Alderette, KB1ASM.

Others present were:

Dave Johnson, AA1LO;

Tony Baker, AA3HD;

Dan Merrifield, K1DQ;

Bill Catanesye, KB1CAT;

Paul Cormier, KC1NQU;

Susan Cormier, KC1NQT;

Michelle Hirsch, K1MPH;

Ronald Hirsch, KR1K;

David Wood, KB1FGF;

Brad Brown, Jr., KC1JMH;

Jordan Brown (unlicensed son of KC1JMH);

Susan Bloomfield, WB2UQP,

Jack Brennan, K1NKS, and;

Carter Hart, W1LBH.

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 Brad, KC1JMH for a presentation on portable/battery power supplies. Brad described his initial glass mat battery back-up power supply that weighed 64 pounds, and how he eventually went to a portable two pound lithium iron phosphate battery box. He described in detail, along with accompanying photo slides, the evolution of his power supplies and their accompanying capabilities, including being able to be recharged by solar, car cigarette lighter, and computer power supplies. Brad answered questions during the presentation and was given a round of applause in appreciation when he was finished.

Following Brad's presentation, Rick, KB1ASM called for approval of the 02 April 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Dave, AA1LO to approve, and was seconded by Bill, KB1CAT.'

Treasurer Jimmy White, KC1ETT gave the Treasurer's bookkeeping material in a manila envelope to Dave, AA1LO to turn into the club. Secretary Tony, AA3HD opened the package which contained the Club's Treasurer records and an envelope marked "Copy for Club Copies For Members". Tony, AA3HD opened the envelope marked "Copy for Club Copies For Members" which contained a letter dated May 7, 2023 from Jimmy stating that he was stepping down as Treasurer, and stepping down as a member of

the club. Stapled to the letter was a copy of a letter that was sent to Jimmy from Rick, KB1ASM dated March 30, 2023. Several copies of this pair of letters were also in this envelope, and Tony distributed these copies to the club members present to read. This pair of letters is attached to the file copy of these minutes. As there was no Treasurer, Rick, KB1ASM suggested that we ask for volunteers to take over as Treasurer. Club Vice-President Dan, K1DQ suggested that the person be able to stay on through next year rather than having to elect a new Treasurer in September according to the by-laws. Dan's suggestion was agreed to, and Rick again asked if there was anyone interested in taking over as Treasurer. Michelle, K1MPH volunteered. Tony, AA3HD asked if there were any nominations for Treasurer. There were none. Rick, KB1ASM made a motion to accept Michelle, K1MPH as Treasurer, and was seconded by Bill, KB1CAT. The motion was approved by the membership present without descent.

Roger, N1XP, Committee Chair for Testing, Licensing, and Education, was not present, but had emailed his report to the membership earlier in the week. A hard copy of his report is attached to the file copy of these notes. That said, Roger asked Brad, KC1JMH to give an update on the Maine Mesh network. Brad read two updates to the club which generally described the progress, or lack thereof in part due to waiting for needed equipment to arrive. Brad also mentioned that a D-Star repeater was going in at the Buckfield repeater site.

Dan, K1DQ asked if there was any update to the proposed legislation regarding the 5g issue before the Maine legislature. Tony, AA3HD stated that on today's Dirgo net it was mentioned that the legislation didn't get anywhere this session, but the issue was likely to come up again. Tony also stated that on the Dirgo net it was mentioned that a state senator was looking to propose a bill that would get amateur radio license plates that was not dependant on the current vanity license plate guidelines, but based on how EMS, Firefight, Veteran, etc. license plates are allowed. If such a law is enacted, it is likely you would have to present your amateur radio license to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to get the plate.

As Public Information Officer, Rick, KB1ASM stated that the Town of Hollis had approved the club's application to use the rec field for Field Day on 24-25 June 2023. In conjunction with this, Rick got an article printed on page 6 in the Community Calendar of the May 4, 2023 issue of *The Waterboro Reporter* which he read to the membership present. The article reads as follows: "YORK COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will activate several ham radio transmitters on June 24 - 25 and participate in the world's largest on air event, known as ARRL Field Day. The event will be held in the pavilion at the Hollis Recreation Center on Lower Tarbox Road and will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday until 2 p.m. on Sunday. A Get-On-The-Air transmitter will be available for unlicensed radio operators to make their first contact. The public is encouraged to participate. Visit [www.W1YCA.org](http://www.W1YCA.org) for more info." Michelle, K1MPH, Field Day Committee member, stated that she has yet to receive any Field Day volunteer forms. Rick, KB1ASM stated he had filled a form out, and asked Michelle if she could email Roger, N1XP to find out if there is a problem with the on-line volunteer form on our website. Bill, KB1CAT stated that he would have his ambulance on site. Rick stated that he and Roger, N1XP would be going to the rec field to check it out. Tony, AA3HD suggested that when he and Roger decide on a time to go do a site check that they let the rest of the members know so that they can see the place too. Rick agreed.

Rick, KB1ASM asked Tony AA3HD for an update on the process of becoming an ARRL-affiliated club. Tony gave an overview of the benefits as stated by ARRL, as well as the requirements we must meet to become ARRL-affiliated, including, but not limited to having at least 51% of the club members also being members of the ARRL, and writing a constitution that meets ARRL specifications. As an aside, Tony mentioned that ARRL dues would be going up, and the ARRL was doing a survey of the membership on how to raise money for the ARRL. Tony encouraged all ARRL members to take the survey, as only about 20% of ARRL members have responded to such surveys in the past, according to ARRL New England Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC. Fred made this statement at last week's NearFest HAMfest. Fred further stated that the ARRL is looking at a \$2.5 million deficit this year, and this is part of the impetus for having to raise dues. Dave, AA1LO made a motion to table the decision on whether or not to become an ARRL-affiliated club until after September. Bill, KB1CAT seconded.

Rick, KB1ASM asked Dave, AA1LO for an update on Harborfest. Dave said all was in order, our spot was reserved, there was room for Bill's, KB1CAT's ambulance, the EMA Communications van would be there, and that he had a tri-pod and antenna. Tony, AA3HD said he had a radio that could be used. Bill said he would have radios set up in his ambulance as well.

Rick, KB1ASM asked Bill, KB1CAT for an update on the Trolley Museum. Bill said all was in order and the Museum was now open. Bill suggested that club members make a site visit. Club members will be emailed when the site visit date is determined.

The door prize - a brand-new old multi-tester, purchased at last week's NearFest, was won by Jack Brennan, K1NKS.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:24 following a motion made by Dave, AA1LO and seconded by Rick, KB1ASM.

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

Attachments to file copy: Roger, N1XP May 07, 2023 Report, and; pair of letters from Jimmy White, KC1ETT.