

York County Amateur Radio Club

Minutes from the December 01, 2024 Meeting

Club President Susan Richardson, KC1BSQ brought the meeting to order at 1501 hours. Susan introduced herself and then had those present introduce themselves.

Others present at today's meeting were:

Dave Johnson, AA1LO;

Tony Baker, AA3HD, Secretary;

Rob Sylvester, AA1BS;

Ernie Record, KB4EFX, Account Custodian;

Alex Glenn, KQ4TRQ;

Michael Doucette;

Bruce Esposito;

Susan Bloomfield, WB2UQB;

Jack Brennan, K1NKS, Vice-President;

Rick Alderette; KB1ASM;

Dan Merrifield, K1DQ;

Roger Pience, N1XP;

Joe Bouchard, K1VW, and;

Bill Lord, KC1SSO.

Following introductions, Susan, KC1BSQ, turned the floor over to Rob, AA1BS, who gave a presentation on Software Defined Radio (SDR.) Rob's presentation focused on what SDR's are, how SDR receivers can be used, and web-based applications that can be used to monitor the receivers. One specific application that Rob demonstrated was hams.live, which supports and synchronizes multiple SDR sources. Use of these applications can assist the user in determining propagation, the strength of the user's signal, and the ability to possibly get a better copy on a station the user is having a QSO with, among other things. Rob answered a number of questions and was given a round of applause following his presentation.

Susan, KC1BSQ, then turned the floor over to Roger, N1XP, who gave a presentation and demonstration that refuted the myth that placing radio equipment in a box wrapped in aluminum foil will protect it from electromagnetic pulse (EMP) waves. Roger gave out a two-page information sheet regarding radio frequency waves and EMP waves. Roger also provided information on coming December celestial events. Finally, Roger announced that he would be teaching a Technician class at the Massabessic Adult & Community Education Center on Thursday evenings from March 6th through May 8th. Roger answered questions and was given a round of applause following his presentation.

Susan, KC1BSQ announced that at the January 2025 meeting the club membership should be prepared to discuss on-the-air activities they would like to participate in for 2025. Tony, AA3HD reviewed activities the club undertook last year, including Winter Field Day, Wells Harborfest, Field Day, the Trolley Museum, and the Shaker Hill Museum. Tony also stated that maybe the club should consider a POTA activity above and

beyond what some members do individually, and made it clear that other on-the-air activity suggestions are welcome. One suggestion that was immediately provided as a possibility was Laudholm Farm. Susan stated that it would be good to have an Events Coordinator that would not replace anyone who has already been the point person for an event, they would just coordinate all the events overall.

Susan, KC1BSQ, reminded the membership present that under our new Constitution and By-Laws, club dues -- \$15.00 -- are due in January 2025.

Susan, KC1BSQ, suggested a breakfast get-together, possibly on a Saturday morning in February, as a way for club members to socialize that did not involve amateur radio. Susan solicited other possible social get-together suggestions for discussion at the January meeting. In this regard, the membership present was reminded by Rob, AA1BS, that every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm some club members get together at the Dunkin' in Waterboro.

Susan, KC1BSQ presented outgoing officers Rick, KB1ASM, and Tony, AA3HD, with certificates of appreciation for their service in the club. Susan also had a certificate for outgoing officer Michelle, K1MPH, who was not present, so Dave, AA1LO agreed to take her certificate to her.

Susan, KC1BSQ asked for a motion to approve the November 2024 club meeting minutes. A motion was made by Dave, AA1LO and then seconded, which was approved by the membership present without dissent.

Susan, KC1BSQ asked Ernie, KB4EFX, Account Custodian, for the Treasurer's report. Ernie stated that Rick, KB1ASM wrote a \$50.00 check to the Shaker Hill Museum, and therefore the club account was \$50.00 less than what it was at the November 2024 meeting. Susan asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Dave, AA1LO and then seconded, which was approved by the membership present without dissent. Previous club president Rick, KB1ASM, will work with Susan and Ernie to get the bank account signatories updated. If allowed by the bank, the club address will be that of Tony's, AA3HD.

As Public Information Officer, Rick, KB1ASM reviewed what newspapers he had requested community announcements be printed in regarding the club. At least two of the newspapers printed the announcements. Rick further stated that he had given a video regarding today's club meeting to Rebecca in Wells to post on the Wells town TV. Tony, AA3HD circulated an information notice he composed regarding the club to be posted by Rebecca on the Wells town TV. Tony will send Dave, AA1LO the notice in Power Point and PDF formats for him to give to Rebecca.

For old business, Susan, KC1BSQ asked Ernie, KB4EFX if he had decided to become the new Treasurer. Ernie agreed. Susan asked for a motion to be made to accept Ernie as the new Treasurer. A motion was made by Rick, KB1ASM and seconded which was approved by the membership without dissent, (although Ernie jokingly raised his hand in dissent.)

For new business, Susan, KC1BSQ called on Rick, KB1ASM to discuss the Maine Coast Marathon's needs for amateur radio operators for their races on 3 and 4 May 2025. Five HT operators and two net control operators are needed on 3 May, while nine HT operators and two net control operators are needed on 4

May. Before the club decides on this matter, several questions need to be answered, including where marathon headquarters is located, where the race starting locations are, and are swags needed? Rick will check on these aspects and get back to the club in January. It was suggested that we might be able to combine forces with another local radio club in responding to this request.

Susan, KC1BSQ opened the floor to discussion regarding possibly changing the Thursday night net. After discussion, it was decided that the Thursday night net would be changed from 7:00pm to 6:00pm. In addition, it was decided that the net control operators should rotate. Those wishing to be Thursday night net operators should contact Susan. Roger, N1XP reminded the members that the Thursday night net script is on the club website.

Jack, K1NKS stated that he will be taking over the FCC amateur radio license testing duties that Roger, N1XP had been doing. At a minimum, Jack would like to be able to test the Technician class that Roger will be finishing on May 8. It was determined that there are at least five Extra class VE's currently in the club.

Bill, KC1SSO provided an update on the state of the club website. Bill stated that he has been working with Roger, N1XP on getting the website up to date, and that it is pretty much up to date now. Bill will continue to post the club meeting minutes on the club website.

Susan, KC1BSQ opened the floor to Winter Field Day plans. Jack, K1NKS, Rob, AA1BS, Rick, KB1ASM, and Tony, AA3HD will all be bringing radios and associated equipment. Tony reminded the club that Roger, N1XP, had put a Winter Field Day sign-up sheet on the club website. Those interested in signing up can bring radio equipment, be radio operators, be loggers, and/or help with set-up/tear-down, and/or bring/prepare food. An issue that needs to be worked out is that of combining the logging of the various operators. Networking the logging programs would solve this issue. Members should be prepared to present logging 'solutions' at the January meeting and Susan is to be contacted if you have any field day logging software recommendations.

Joe, K1VW submitted an application to become a member of the club. Tony, AA3HD asked for a motion to accept Joe as a member of the club which was made by Rick, KB1ASM and seconded, which was approved by the membership without dissent. Joe's dues check was turned over to Rick for deposit in the club checking account.

The door prize – a 2025 ARRL Calendar -- was won by Joe, K1VW.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:53 by Susan, KB1BSQ following a motion that was seconded and approved by the members present without dissent.

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