

JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> PARC GENERAL MEETING via (ZOOM) edited

Executive Present: President Steve VE3PTA, Vice President Paul VE3KBI, Treasurer Barry VE3BLM, Technical Rick VE3IQZ, Activities John VE3NW, Secretary Bob VE3IEL, Also in attendance, Past President Andrew VE3AND.

ARES Coordinator: John VE3VL  
Web Page Coordinator: Harmen VE3EMA  
PARC PL Coordinator: Nina VE3IRK

Members Present:	Dave VE3SD	Bill VE3ZWR	Darren VA3PDJ
	Don VA3ET	Mark VE3LJQ	Rick VE3RKY
	Martin VA3OMW	Terry VA3IX	Karen VA3KDF
	Don VE3BSR	Barry VA3BB	Geoff VA3POZ
	Brian VE3NSI	Bob VE3RVZ	Paresh VE3PQX
		Teresa VE3TZM	

Highlight: Field Day Plans for June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurers Report: Barry VE3BLM, provided this treasurers report. Dues paid: Ralph VA3RO \$35.00, Glen VE3OER \$35.00, Rick VA3ARD \$35,00, Paul VE3AXT donation \$50.00. Bank account: \$2,152.98, GIC \$865.19, Petty Cash \$353.70. Expenses: Nexicom Inc. \$62.09, bank service charge \$1.25.

Web Hosting: Harmen VE3EMA noted that our web page contract is up for renewal. He explained that this cost is for web page hosting. We have a domain name. The hosting is a 3 year term. The cost is \$437.04. The contract is auto-renewal. Harmen VE3EMA wanted the club to know that he is willing to pay half the listed cost. That works out to \$235.52. The club will pay half. In a previous e-mail, Secretary Bob VE3IEL indicated that he would donate \$50.00 toward the cost of web hosting. Harmen VE3EMA liked to know if the club would like him to go ahead with the renewal.

Technical Report: Rick VE3IQZ remarked as how our repeater VE3PBO still worked during the power outage that happened on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. The new batteries worked fine. The repeater worked; but, as the internet was down, there were no Echolink connections. The link to VE3BUY was unavailable. Otherwise everything is OK.

Ares Report: John VE3VL indicated that there would be no ARES exercises until after Field Day. The ARES exercise that was planned for the area of South Monaghan was canceled due to the storm. A question was asked concerning protocols for ARES activation during power outages, or storms. Overall there was not a lot of information to be found, as to what was happening, or when power would be restored. John VE3VL explained that ARES is activated at request of the city of Peterborough, or the county of Peterborough. ARES works with groups such as the Red Cross or the Salvation Army. The club might take on other tasks, when ARES is not called out. The Peterborough Amateur Radio club might provide a protocol for action as may be part of public service during community problems such as power outages.

Fox Hunt proposal: June 19<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date of the next fox hunt. This is Fathers Day weekend. The plan for this outing is on-going. Paul VE3KBI has transmitters ready to use for an interesting fox hunt. Perhaps 2 transmitters will be hidden. As these units are very small, there is no need for a car mobile to operate them. They shall identify in Morse every few minutes. This is a new idea for fox hunts. Paul VE3KBI has spent time and effort to make this idea possible. He hopes many club members will take part in this kind of challenge.

Accommodation: The question was put forward as to having in-house meetings. It is not sure as to what regulations will be in place in September for club meetings. President Steve VE3PTA asked members what they thought about in-house meetings. Most members present were OK with in-house meetings. For medical, or other reasons some would not be able to attend an in-house meeting. The idea of using St. James United Church was put forward by President Steve VE3PTA. It is centrally located on Romaine St. in Peterborough, with parking, an elevator & WI-FI. Steve also mentioned that the cost of the church room was within the budget of our club. Hybrid meetings combining in-house and internet participation is a possibility. Rick VE3RKY commented that he already has the equipment & expertise to make this possible, if chosen by the club. Brian VE3NSI also has the ability to provide a hybrid meeting. Other in-house locations such as Stewart Hall area were thought not to be ideally located.

Field Day: Dave VE3SD our Field Day coordinator outlined plans for our club Field Day event June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>. It is expected that the necessary certificates from the city and insurance from RAC will be in place in time for our Field Day. All of the requirements for the use of Newhall Park shall be submitted. Some pre-cleanup due to the recent storm may be required. A Johnny on the spot, was reserved months ago. Dave VE3SD shared the view that we shall have the use of Newhall Park for our Field Day event. Our usual CW operators, Ken VE3KP, and Wayne VE3WRL, shall not be joining us this year. We are starting fresh, following COVID down times for Field Day this year. It should be somewhat pared down. We should be able to have a barbecue, or a social lunch. It is hoped that Keith VA3HXC will be able to head up a barbecue, such as he has done in past Field Days. Dave VE3SD is planning 2 stations. Dave's big tent, may or may not be needed. He plans to bring it anyway. Probably not as many antennas as we have had in the past. Dave is also concerned about future Field Days where he would like to step back a little, and a Field Day committee formed. Antennas we have, generators we have, radios we have, for this year. Dave is ready for contact, if you have further plans for Field Day. More stations such as a GOTA station might be included. Bob VE3IEL started a discussion on adding Winlink to our Field Day operations. Rick VE3RKY commented that he had the equipment needed, and would be available to operate Winlink on Field Day. There is a list of Winlink stations ready for Field Day. Bob mentioned that he knew of 12 already in North America. Barry VE3BLM asked Dave if he might operate Field Day from home. Dave agreed, that the regulations for home operations are still in place, following previous COVID restrictions. This new rule may carry on to the future. Home operations might not be included in the overall score, but would be added as a credit.

(more)

Field Day plans continued: Ft8 operations on Field Day will be present on the bands as it has become a popular digital mode. Harmen VE3EMA further commented on the Winlink mode for our Field Day. Harmen noted that more Winlink stations are being added to the list for Field Day. Dave then asked if anyone would like to take on operating a Winlink set-up. Rick VE3RKY remarked that he was ready with a whole kit, and could handle a Winlink operation for our Field Day. Just because we may have a limited number of radio transmitters, that does not limit the number of antennas we might use. Terry VA3IX and Dave VE3SD plan to stay overnight Saturday. Dave will set up the computers this year; but, he hopes someone will take over that task in the future. Everyone is welcome. No sign up is required. You may wish to visit, observe, operate, eat burgers. The more we can get on the air, the better. Various notices via e-mail & Facebook shall be sent to club members who might wish to participate.

Further Discussion on repeater power: It was noted the the new batteries at the repeater sight worked well. Right now we have no idea how long the battery power would last. If the battery power ran down, someone could take a generator to the site to keep the power available. Harmen VE3EMA has an extra generator. Added batteries were also discussed.

Discussion on Repeater VE3APL Apsley: The discussion centered on how safe was the tower where the repeater was located. Was the tower safe enough to be climbed? Perhaps the location could be changed. Even the antenna at the present site is not in good shape.

Added discussions: Steve VE3PTA remarked on a tower that needed to come down. Harmen VE3EMA mentioned that he could help. Tower work could be concluded on a convenient nice day. Also discussed were the fiberglass poles that were donated to the club. Terry VA3IX noted that fiberglass poles were not the best for a permanent operation. Another note was added about Parks on the Air (POTA) by Don VA3ET. He is willing to help anyone who is interested in POTA. Steve VE3PTA has been having fun with POTA. Dave VE3SD plans to operate a similar exercise from the Rideau canal area in August. Discussion continued as how Dave VE3SD might operate from his canoe on the Rideau. Comments were made on how antennas survived the recent storm. Andrew VE3AND commented on how his antenna was damaged. These discussions ended the meeting.

The meeting was concluded 8:56 PM by President Steve VE3PTA.

June 7<sup>th</sup> PARC General Meeting minutes submitted by Secretary Bob VE3IEL