

## OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup> PARC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Executive present:** ( In House): President Steve VE3PTA, Technical Rick VE3IQZ,  
Activities John VA3NW, Secretary Bob VE3IEL.  
(Virtual): Vice President Paul VE3KBI, Treasurer BarryVE3BLM.

**Club Officers present:** Web master/Resources Harmen VE3EMA, PL Net coordinator Nina  
VE3IRK, (Virtual) ARES coordinator John VE3VL.

**In house members present:** Geoff VA3POZ  
Bill VE3MEW  
Martin VA3OMW  
Don VA3ET  
Randy VE3DIV  
Terry VA3IX  
Ted VA3FZZ  
Don VE3BSR  
Barry VA3BB  
Rick VE3RKY  
Karen VA3KDF  
Henry VA3ZRS  
Ralph VA3RO  
Ron VE3LUZ  
Phyllis VA3PVB  
Devon VE3DEV

**Virtual Members listed:** Clay VE3YCL  
Mark VE3LJQ  
Robert VA3MM  
Brian VE3NSI  
Darren VA3PDJ  
Sylvia VE3HXC  
Keith VA3HXC

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Bob VE3IEL reported that Club Minutes are posted on our web-site. Anyone may read our Club Minutes there. Steve VE3PTA has also e-mailed our latest club minutes to members. Some corrections have occurred. Club Executive Minutes are sent to executive members. These Executive minutes may also be available to members by request. Bob VE3IEL asked that minute corrections be e-mailed to him at: ve3iel@rac.ca. Bob VE3IEL mentioned that he keeps paper copies of minutes in a log book (minute book). Bob VE3IEL said that he was recording the meeting. If there is an objection, please speak up. There were no objections to being recorded.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurer Barry VE3BLM reported that dues had come in from Clay VE3YCL & Wayne VE3LFB, plus \$15 for linking set-up. Rick VE3RKY paid dues and also made a donation of \$800 to the repeater fund. Bob VE3IEL made a donation of \$50 to the repeater fund. Other members have supplied dues, but these have not been acted on yet. The cost for Nexicom was \$62.09. There was a bank service charge of \$1.25. As of Sept. 2022 meeting we had petty cash of \$296.20. Our club GIC account is \$866.69. \$865.00 has been set aside for our repeater system fund. The club bank account is \$2,532,70. President Steve VE3PTA noted that some members at the meeting had given cash for memberships. This money will be forwarded through Rick VE3IQZ to Treasurer Barry VE3BLM. Barry mentioned that Rick VE3IQZ had membership cards available if they are wanted.

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**Treasurers Report continued:** Our Treasurer Barry VE3BLM handles the membership dues. Barry explained how term payments are counted. Basically our club terms begin and end in January. Club payments made now are for the 2023 term.

**Technical Report:** Rick VE3IQZ began the technical report by saying things are going well. At the VE3APL site, Harmen VE3EMA climbed the tower. He found that a cable was not connected (broken off). It looked like the antenna had been struck by lightning and needed to be replaced. The cable connector was broken. Steve VE3PTA later put on a new connector. Steve found that there was still a high SWR. Steve also found that a capacitor had been blown in one of the cavities. He was able to replace the capacitor and the antenna has been replaced. It is a Comet/Diamond type, 2 bay dipole for the 70 ft. tower. Harmen VE3EMA reminded Rick about the use of Barry's modem at the VE3BUY site. Harmen noted that this modem is working well. Steve VE3PTA added that we had not been overloading Barry's modem at VE3BUY. Steve told us that the VE3APL is in his shop now, plugged in, and running. He made a link with VE3APL, at his home. Steve is not exactly happy with the SWR he saw. Steve felt there was a little bit of de-sensing with it. Anyway, it all looks promising and he hopes to have it installed before the winter snows. Bob VE3IEL asked if what is being done at the VE3APL site is OK with the owner of the property? Steve replied that yes, John VE3KBT the owner of the VE3APL site is on board with what is planned for the repeater.

**Activities Report:** John VA3NW, our activities coordinator, reported that the Trent Regatta, held the previous weekend, went better than it has ever gone before. The radio volunteers all did a great job. The next event is the Rally of the Tall Pines. Although this is not a club event, it is a lot of fun. It is a whole day event. If you like watching fast cars, and would like to help out; then, please contact John, at his e-mail address (ve3bpa@gmail.com ). Also, this info is available at the Tall Pines web-site. The Tall Pines event takes place in the Bancroft area at the end of November. The listed dates are November 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>. Other than the local Bancroft repeaters such as VA3FOY at 147.285, normal simplex frequencies will also be used. Most operators will be in their cars, using mobile radios. It was noted that JOTA, the Boy Scouts On The Air Jamboree, amateur involvement, has been canceled for us this year.

**ARES Report:** John VE3VL, gave the latest ARES report. John started by asking how many of us took in the RAC conference hosted by Jason Tromblay about the changes in ARES. John, noted that Clay VE3YCL was one who had. John VE3VL then gave a summary, an implication of ARES becoming part of an overall Government mandate for emergency management. This follows with the Incident Management System for Ontario and, also, with the Western Incident Management System, as well as with the US Incident Management System. This brings our ARES in alignment, and coordination, with North American emergency management planning. John said that training and certification would be required as qualification for anyone who might operate at Emergency Operations Centers.

**ARES Report continued:** John VE3VL noted that the new name for our Canadian amateur radio emergency service would be “AuxCom”, or the RAC Auxiliary Communications Service or, in short, ACS. Training courses would come for Incident Management (IMS), for example IMS 101. There may be other courses, one might have to take a couple of days in class. A curriculum of training will be put out so that we can participate in RAC's Auxiliary Communications Service. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, RAC will roll out its main plan for this service but it will all take some time. John knows that there are people interested in the training & tests. Even so, there may be a number of untrained volunteers who could handle things like the Trent Regatta, Walks, or Fun Run communications. If, however, you wish to work with a government run operation, then you will have to be certified. John VE3VAL gave this report explaining that this information was all he knew. He said he had been given zero direction, other than what he had just reported. More will forward from RAC. Clay VE3YCL added that it is likely that certified operators will be assigned to specific posts such as with the Red Cross, or other organizations.

John VE3VL then noted that our local ARES is going strong. New members have joined the Peterborough ARES group. Clay VE3YCL and Darren VA3PDJ are the more recent members. Different levels of certification have not been determined yet. There are, though, different levels of IMS training. John indicated that IMS level 101, is something that anyone can take. He encourages members to take this course. At the end of the course there would be an online exam. Bob VE3IEL asked if there would be badges, or something similar to show officials that you are certified? John VE3VL replied that there were no details on that yet. John thinks that RAC will provide some kind of identification to prove you are trained and certified.

**Vice President Report:** Vice President Paul VE3KBI reported that our ZOOM coffee group fees are due again. Paul mentioned that there had been 13 members signed up last year. Each member had paid \$20 to provide overall group coverage. The coffee group account was left with an excess of \$55.50. That means that each member will only have to pay \$15 for ZOOM group coverage this year. Paul mentioned that an e-transfer to his e-mail address ( busyagain@bell.net ) for members dues would be forwarded to ZOOM for group coverage.

**PL Net Report:** Nina VE3IRK, our Peterborough Amateur Radio Club Professional Loafers Net Coordinator reported on our morning weekly nets. Nina has been struggling to find a regular host for our Monday morning PL Net. This spot has been open since Rick VA3ARD became a silent key. She does, however, have three part time volunteers, Paul VE3AXT, Don VA3ET, and Don VE3BSR. Nina has been covering the Monday PL net herself but would like someone to host this net on a more permanent basis. John VA3NW mentioned that he had volunteered to be a host but was turned down. Nina stated that John VA3NW had previously stopped hosting the Monday PL net and she was concerned that it might happen again. John said that the reason he had stopped was due to what he thought were unfair complaints. This discussion ended with John and Nina agreeing for

**PL Net Report Continued:** Nina VE3IRK noted that covering the Monday PL net was still a problem. She suggested that if a regular host could not be found, then it might mean dropping the Monday PL net. Terry VA3IX showed concern that dropping the Monday net would hamper the whole net operation that had been ongoing for 50 years. Steve VE3PTA is aware that Nina has been hosting two nets, both Monday and Thursday. Nina mentioned that, for now, the Thursday net has been somewhat a problem due to her work schedule. John VA3NW agreed to host the Thursday net. Terry VA3IX commented that we should not wait for someone on Sunday night to volunteer for Monday. Nina ended her report, asking for more volunteers.

**Report on Randy VE3RWN donations:** President Steve VE3PTA noted that Randy VE3RWN had donated repeater equipment and his expertise to help our club proceed with repeater efficiency and modernization. Steve had already posted a report of Randy's offer. (*Your Secretary also has a printed copy of Randy's offer*) Steve VE3PTA suggested that what is now needed is for the club to accept Randy's offer. Steve explained that some years ago the Peterborough Club had offered to buy Randy's repeater equipment, including repeater VE3BUY, but somehow this deal never went through. Randy is now prepared to donate all this equipment of repeaters VE3BUY and VE3APL to our club. Steve VE3PTA suggested that we should accept Randy's donation and proposed that a motion be made for the club to approve and accept Randy VE3RWN's offer. Bob VE3IEL moved that Randy's donation offer be accepted. This motion was seconded by Barry VE3BLM. Steve VE3PTA asked if all were in favour and there were no objections. The motion was **CARRIED**. Terry VA3IX suggested that an official letter from the club be sent to Randy showing our appreciation for his generous donation. Steve noted that such a letter would be sent. The question of insurance for this donated equipment was made. Steve explained that it would be cheaper for equipment like this to be fixed than to pay continuing insurance. Steve VE3PTA then asked if there were any further questions on this topic? There were no more questions.

**Christmas Dinner:** Bill VE3MEW asked about a Christmas dinner? Steve VE3PTA asked if the Club should have a Christmas dinner this year? He noted that the Carousel restaurant, where in the past we have had Christmas dinners, had been sold and renamed. It is now the One Eyed Jack Pub & Grill. Bob VE3IEL asked if anyone had been there. Some members had. Nina VE3IRK mentioned that we could have our own room there. Nina proposed a date of Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Steve said that we would have to know how many would be there, at least by one week in advance. Steve asked if everyone was in favour of our Christmas dinner proposals. Devon VE3DEV also wanted to know if everyone was in favour. Bob VE3IEL then asked if there were any objections. There were no objections. Terry VA3IX commented that we should expect to pay a gratuity. It was noted that we have missed Christmas dinners due to COVID restrictions. We now have the opportunity to enjoy a club Christmas gathering.  
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**Report on repeater updates:** Harmen first commented that Randy VE3RWN had addressed our PARC meeting, outlining how new links could be made using HamWan linking between repeaters. Harmen VE3EMA stated that repeater linking work would proceed in phases. He noted that with part of phase one we were using Barry's commercial internet modem at the VE3BUY repeater site. It was noted that this modem was not being over used. Barry's modem will be returned to him once HamWan linking is in place. Harmen then noted that Randy VE3RWN and Rick VE3RKY had made donations so that new microwave linking could proceed. With phase two, Harmen said, a committee would need to be formed to carry out the tasks needed for linking progression and for grant application. An ARDC grant from this organization that has six million dollars available for amateur radio programs should be studied, and a proposal made. Harmen reminded us of the presentation Randy VE3RWN made to us regarding ARDC grant requirements. Money from such a grant would be used for equipment, antennas, and some future repairs as needed. Battery purchases, spectrum analyzers, and equipment upkeep would need money as required.

Harmen VE3EMA explained that he had tried to get Fleming College on board with our plans. Harmen's contacts at Fleming College declined the suggestion. Harmen said that he would try contacting Loyalist College. He is hopeful that Loyalist College will partner with our plans and include education classes for learning about radio linking. Harmen noted how Randy VE3RWN had donated three AREDN routers. Harmen is experimenting with these routers, now located at the QTH of Barry VE3BLM, Rick VE3IQZ and his QTH. This kind of system will work with HamWAN wider area linking. Wireless linking will eliminate our dependence on commercial internet connection, with the exception of the Nexicom internet connection at VE3PBO. Steve VE3PTA noted that our wireless linking system would still work, even if power failed. Harmen added that even as the internet went down in our local area, our wireless linking would still work. Harmen VE3EMA concluded by saying that if anyone wished to be part of the planning committee, do the work, or help with grant petitions to please contact him ( harm.minnema@gmail.com ). Harmen mentioned that anyone connected with Bell or Rogers could help us get on towers for links. He plans to involve the city as part of an emergency communication arrangement. Harmen would need city approval, or help, for better tower access, such as on water tanks. Bob VE3IEL asked if repeater VE3TJR was part of the linking plan. Harmen responded, that yes, VE3TJR would be part of a linking plan. It is also possible to use UHF signals from VE3BUY's high antenna to reach many locations including Peterborough. A question was asked about Fusion access? Harmen took part in a discussion on how digital Fusion was working at present. Rick VE3IQZ added that digital signals and analog signals could work at repeater VE3TJR, but both types would come out analog. Rick explained that multiple mode transmissions there, during an emergency, would not work. John VA3NW asked about other antenna locations. ( more)

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**Harmen's report continues:** Harmen VE3EMA answered that other locations could be part of the plan once the city is involved. The city should know that emergency communication is needed.

**President Steve VE3PTA closing comments:** After Bob VE3IEL asked about the draw tickets, Steve inquired whether the draw should be held then or after the meeting? The 50/50 draw went on with Nina VE3IRK drawing a ticket. The winner of the draw was Randy VE3DIV.

Steve asked Don VE3BSR about a presentation he had for making e-QSL cards. Don thought his presentation would be better for the next meeting.

It was moved that the meeting be closed.

Ted VE3FZZ seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 8:25 PM.

Minutes submitted by

*Secretary Bob Chrysler VE3IEL*

*Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 2022.*