

York County Amateur Radio Club

Minutes from the February 04, 2024 Meeting

The meeting began at 1502 hours with a presentation about FT8 by Rob, AA1BS. Despite some technical difficulties, Rob gave an informative presentation that sparked questions and comments from various club members.

Following the presentation, Rick, KB1ASM – Club President – had those present introduce themselves.

Those present were:

Dave Johnson, AA1LO;

Tony Baker, AA3HD (Secretary);

Dan Merrifield, K1DQ ;

Michelle Hirsch, K1MPH (Treasurer);

Ronald Hirsch, KR1K;

Roger Pience, N1XP;

Bill Catanesy, KB1CAT;

Susan Bloomfield, WB2UQP;

Ernie Record, KB4EFX;

Jack Brennan (Vice-President) K1NKS;

Bruce Washburn, KC1RUJ;

Bill Lord, KC1SSO;

Rob Sylvester, AA1BS;

Brad Brown Jr., KC1JMH;

Ben Bruns, KC1HBL;

Frank Allen, W1FRA;

Carter Hart, W1LBH, and;

David Lounsbury, no call sign.

Following introductions, Rick, KB1ASM, had Roger, N1XP, give the education report. Roger mentioned that he attended a VE test session in Windham earlier this month. He reminded the club that the YCARC will be giving a VE test session here at the Wells Town Offices on 13 APR 2024. Roger mentioned that the packet network is operating normally and that there is no new movement on the mesh network, although those involved had a training session yesterday. The Extra level license class starts Thursday FEB 08, 2024 at the Massabesic Adult Education Center. The Beginner/Intermediate Soldering and Kit Building class begins 23 APR 2024, also at the Massabesic Adult Education Center. Finally, on 14 FEB 2024, Roger will be teaching four 8th grade science classes at the Wells Junior High on radio waves and Morse Code. Eventually, the classes will be building QRP Pixie rigs. A motion was made and seconded to accept Roger's report, which was approved by the membership present without descent.

Next, Rick, KB1ASM, called on Michelle (Treasurer), K1MPH, to give the Treasurer's report. Michelle stated that the club started the year at \$1,065.97, and ended the month of January with the same amount since it

had no expenses for the month. Michelle also stated she had today received a \$50.00 donation from Bruce, KC1RUJ, as well as an anonymous donation for another \$50.00 in addition to a number of people paying dues. A motion was made and seconded to accept Michelle's report, which was approved by the membership present without descent.

As Public Information Officer, Rick, KB1ASM stated he had finally been able to get access to the club's QRZ.com page. He put some information about the QRZ.com club page, including meeting and radio net information. In addition, Rick started a new Facebook page for the club named "W1YCA". This was done because the administrator for the previous club Facebook page could not be contacted to turn it over to Rick, and that person was the only Administrator. For the new Facebook page, Rick has also made Bruce, KC1RUJ and Rob, AA1BS Administrators along with himself. With regards to Winter Field Day, Rick stated that it was a very successful undertaking. Roger, N1XP stated that there were at least six guests above and beyond club members who stopped by, and some of them said they would be joining our club. Tony, AA3HD, suggested that it might be worth making a donation to the Buxton/Hollis Rod and Gun Club since they made their facility available to our club at no cost for the Winter Field Day activities. Ben, KC1HBL, mentioned that the two gun club members the club was primarily dealing with were both licensed amateur radio operators. A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50.00 to the Buxton/Hollis Rod and Gun Club along with a thank-you letter from Rick, KB1ASM, thanking them for allowing us to use their facility for Winter Field Day.. The motion was approved by the membership present without descent. Rick, KB1ASM will provide Michelle, K1MPH, with whom to mail the check to at the Buxton/Hollis Rod and Gun Club. In addition, a motion was made and seconded to reimburse Roger, N1XP, \$147.72 for the food and drinks he provided to those who participated in Winter Field Day, which was approved by the membership present without descent.

Rick, KB1ASM asked for motions to approve club applicants Burdette Amen, AA1YC, and Bill Lord, KC1SSO for membership in the club. The motions were seconded and approved by the membership present without descent. As a newly licensed operator, Bill was given a round of applause.

Rob, AA1BS, will try to log W1YCA QSOs on the QRZ.com web page.

A motion was made and seconded that the club will pay and/or help pay for those members that cannot afford to pay their dues, or pay or help pay registration fees for amateur radio licensing courses and/or amateur radio related classes. Such a person in need should contact the club Treasurer if they need financial help without the necessity of any other club members needing to know. The membership present approved the motion without descent.

Rick, KB1ASAM, stated that there were several more opportunities this year for club activities in addition to what we did on Winter Field Day. These include:

Maine POTA Day - 18 May;

Main ARRL Convention (Augusta) - 15 June;

ARRL Field Day - last weekend in June;

Wells Harborfest - last weekend in July;

Acton Fair - 22-25 Aug;

Trolley Museum - TBD;

Shaker Apple Festival - 21-21 Sep, and;

Arundel Heritage Day – 14 Sep.

With regards to Arundel Heritage Day, Susan, WB2UQP, stated she had contacted the Arundel Historical Society about the possibility of our club's participation without committing the club to actually doing so. The response from the Historical Society was positive. The event runs from 10am to 4pm at the intersection of Limerick Road and Route 111. Bill, KB1CAT, stated that there was plenty of room for his ambulance at the Arundel Heritage Day site, and that, the Trolley Museum also was willing to host the club again. Rick, KB1ASM, stated that a new person taking over the Shaker Apple Festival would like a commitment from our club ASAP. Rob, AA1BS made a motion that the club commit to the Shaker Apple Festival now, and then have Roger, N1XP, send out a survey/sign-up sheet to the club membership to see how many would sign up for each activity mentioned, and then we decide which activities to do at the next meeting based on the results of the survey/sign-up sheet. The motion was seconded and the membership present approved the motion without descent.

Rob, AA1BS, mentioned that some clubs and/or individual operators participate in competitions – similar to contests -- to see how many contacts they can make over a specific time period...usually a month's time. He mentioned operators in Massachusetts doing such a thing. The winner gets 'bragging rights.' This might be something our club might want to do, either amongst ourselves within our club, or against other Maine amateur radio clubs. Rob wondered how much interest our club might have doing something like this. Of those present, it appeared there was no interest, and some members expressed the inability to really commit to such an activity for a month. It was suggested that Roger, N1XP, also send out a survey to the membership to see who might be interested in participating in such a competition.

Tony, AA3HD mentioned that Dave, AA1LO, had received a QSL card to the club from Winter Field Day QSO. This is the second QSL card Dave received for QSO's with the club. This is probably due to the fact that Dave's address is listed on the QRZ.com page for the club call sign. To avoid this in the future, a motion was made and seconded for Tony to be the club's QSL manager, which the membership present approved without descent. Appropriate changes will be made to the club's QRZ.com page to reflect this change.

Susan, WB2UQP, won the door prizes, which were donated by Dave, AA1LO, and Alan, N9APD.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, which the membership present approved without descent.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:53 by Rick, KB1ASM.

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