



*Minutes of the 08 Jan 2008
Monthly Meeting
of the
Barrie Amateur Radio Club
held at Zehr's, Big Bay Point Rd.*

In attendance:

President	Alex McGuire	VE3PKA
Vice-President	Jim Collins	VE3LIC
Treasurer	Rick Allen	VA3WSB
Secretary	Mary Adams	VA3MIZ
Membership	Darwin Duckworth	VA3DUC
Director	Jack Hartley	VE3RDQ
Director	Al Duncan	VE3RRD

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1901 hrs by Alex McGuire VE3PKA

Introductions

All those present introduced themselves. There were 12 in attendance.

Minutes of the December Meeting

Alex suggested that the reading of the minutes might be viewed as unnecessary and those wish to see them could do so at coffee break or go to the website where they are posted. This would be done on a trial basis for January and February. If there were no objections after this, the practice would become policy. None were opposed to this suggestion.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Allen VA3WSB presented the club financial report for December. Harry Gautier VE3SXH motioned that the minutes had been read and this was seconded by Ted Pino VA3TWP

Committee Reports

Ares

Dave Wainwright VE3ILA provided the report. Rogers Telecom sold an antenna tower, in Egbert, to LSR for one dollar. At this time there is still some old equipment, satellite dishes, antennas, etc that must be removed before the club can utilize the structure. There might be some

salvage value in the equipment removed but there is still a good deal of work to be done and volunteers are required to assist with the work. There is a diesel generator on site but it hasn't operated in approximately seven years.

Once an antenna has been installed, it should provide exceptional range and could possibly be used for contesting.

The site is reasonably secure since it is surrounded by a chain link fence with barb wire along the top edge and is monitored by Securitas.

As a final note, LSR is interested in increasing its membership. At this time he believes the cost is about \$20 per year.

Web Page

Harry Gauthier VE3SXH has uploaded all of the material for the Amateur Radio Course but there are still a few updates to complete and he is still looking for any ideas for additional items that might be put on the web.

Membership Numbers and Renewals

Darwin Duckworth VA3DUC stated that there are approximately 148 people on file but this included silent keys, unidentified complimentary members, and other unknowns. Of this number, there are 23 voting life and regular members.

This is a new executive position for BARC and an up-to-date membership list was not available. This list was developed using old membership lists and attendance records so there is still some investigation required to get a more accurate of reading. This might possibly be available by the next meeting.

Alex McGuire indicated that this was now a new year and BARC membership renewals were now due (seven people renewed their membership during the course of this meeting).

There was a question as to the cost of membership and Alex stated that it was still \$20 for the year. Alex stated that this has been the case for the past several years and saw no reason for an increase at this time but was open to suggestions of an increase. There were no motions for an increase.

Course Progress

Al Duncan VE3RRD stated that the current course tempo had been increased to two classes per week, so it might be completed before the end of February, and that it is working out quite well. The classes were currently being conducted at Jack Hartley's (VE3RDQ) house. The increased pace does not appear to be having any adverse effects on student performance. Currently, there are four students taking the course and one waiting to write the exam.

There was some concern that the RAC curriculum did not coincide with the Industry Canada guidelines and did not reflect the proportional

weight of instruction against the weight of the topics represented in the final exam. Therefore the course has been modified to provide a more logical flow of information and to give students a better chance of passing the exam.

Other institutions, such as the military, have run their own training programs, without the RAC manual and their students have successfully passed the exams to receive their Amateur radio licence.

Alex McGuire inquired about the currency of examiner qualifications for some BARC members. Those questioned were unsure of their status. It was agreed that the RAC list of examiners would be reviewed so this information could be confirmed.

Repeater Report

Al Duncan VE3RRD stated that there were two concerns. First the cavity filters still required adjustment and would have to be removed and brought to Bob Morten to be tuned. The second was to have the remainder of the radio tuned up which could logically be done at the same time that the filters were being worked on.

It was also suggested that the recorded announcement be updated since it contained information that was no longer correct.

Social Committee

Alex McGuire stated that there was very little to discuss at this time as it was too early in the year and the club was currently too busy. With the instruction load and a labour force required to assist with the new LSR site cleanup, it was too early to consider social activities at this time.

However, she also stated that if anyone had any social activities that they felt should be considered, they should be brought up so they might be addressed at future meetings. No suggestions were raised at this time.

Correspondence

BARC received a letter from Thompson-Jemmett-Vogelzang (insurance company) which briefly stated that they had changed their operating procedures but that these would have no affect on their ability to serve us. This letter was given to the secretary to file.

Rick Allen received a letter from CNIB Amateur Radio Program. In the past BARC has assisted with a \$25 annual donation. A short discussion ensued and it was agreed that a \$25 donation would be given again this year. Rick raised the point that Alex McGuire would be unable to co-sign the cheque since the outgoing and incoming presidents had not yet gone to the bank to update the account. As Alex's hand was currently injured, she would not be able to provide a legal signature so Harry Gauthier would continue to co-sign until the change over could be accomplished.

Rick Allen also received a QSL card from W4NAZ (JOTA site in Florida) along with a return envelope and an American dollar for a return QSL card. Al Duncan stated

that he would print a card and Jack Hartley agreed that he would ensure that it was sent off.

Old Business

Audit for 2007

Harry Gauthier was working on the audit, for 2007, but he indicated that it was not yet complete. Alex McGuire requested that it be completed in time for presentation at the next executive meeting.

Antenna for RVH

Al Duncan stated that the replacement antenna had been received, installed and all three bands were now fully functional.

TNC Tested

Al Duncan still had some problems with the power supply and still had to pick up the microphone for it. He is currently using parts from his own set to get the club set working.

Parts for Kenwood TM731A

Al Duncan stated that the Kenwood is in a similar situation to the TNC and that he is still working on it.

GOTA

GOTA officials are just too difficult to contact so it has been impossible to arrange any activities with them.

Any other old business

Harry Gauthier is in the process of updating the inventory of all BARC assets. Controls were more informal in the past so some information (location, serial numbers, status, etc) are not well documented. Therefore he will be contacting some members for clarification. BARC does not have a central location to store its assets so it is necessary to split them up among some of the members. Harry will endeavour to improve controls for the future.

New Business

Hamfest to take place 06 Sep 2008, Hamfest committee needed and meeting to take place late January

Alex McGuire stated that earlier discussions with other members indicated that most of the committee members from the previous year would likely be on the committee for this year. There will be a meeting toward the end of January to discuss details and coordinate efforts between BARC and the Orillia Amateur Radio Club.

Ideas and suggestions as to the events we will take part in throughout the year

Alex McGuire would like more suggestions and ideas as to events that BARC will take part in throughout the year. We do have our regular ones but there should be some consideration as to whether we stay with these and if we might participate in others.

Two of the current students would be involved in a transoceanic cruise on their new boat. Assuming they pass the final exam, Jack Hartley suggested the possibility of setting up a net to keep in touch with them during their travels.

Rick Allen suggested that the Orillia and Barrie clubs might get together for a social gathering at Rama Casino. This was accepted as a possibility but no further decisions were made at this time.

Need for early booking of Oro Fair Grounds if they are going to be used

Alex McGuire reiterated the need to book the facilities early if the club wished to use them this year. If not we would likely experience conflicts similar to those in the past where facilities were no longer available of the days desired because we failed to book them in time. This year the events would include JOTA, field day and Hamfest. The current cost is \$100 plus tax for each 24 hour period. There is a possibility that some portion of these charges might be waived but must book early so they can be brought before council. Funds don't have to be paid immediately, but bookings must be made as early as possible.

Field day is the earliest event and it was agreed that this event should be booked now. Alex stated that she would make the booking.

Guest speaker ideas

Al Duncan would be the guest speaker for January but there is still a need for more to fill out the remaining months. Alex stated that we must determine these early and advertise them on the web site to hopefully encourage more interest in the club so people will come out for the meetings.

Projects

Al Duncan stated that the Fox hunts were still on hold until the warm weather. This was predicated by the zero attendance for several of the hunts in the previous year.

Al Duncan had contacted other clubs and determined that it is essential that a club maintain a technical aspect to its projects in order to survive. Experience has shown that Saturdays are not a good time to conduct these as many have other events which would preclude their attendance.

Jack Hartley suggested that BARC might assist in events of other organizations (ie Salvation Army). If we had t-shirts made to wear during these events this would further serve to advertise BARC. These organizations might in turn allow us to use some of their facilities to conduct some of our events.

Al Duncan suggested ham demonstrations in schools to instil more interest in the younger generation.

Alex McGuire suggested that BARC start to prepare and advertise for the next course that will start in September. Hopefully this will allow word to get out sooner and result in more attendance. She suggested a pre-booking fee to help determine what facilities might be required. This money would be put toward their cost of the course but would be forfeit if they failed to show.

Al Duncan, as editor of the news letter, requested more input for articles to be included. Some suggestions were LSRA and ARES updates for regular features. Alex suggested the inclusion of the membership form for LSRA to encourage membership in that organization.

Jack Hartley suggested that we contact event coordinators early to determine if there are any changes in event conduct, structure, etc. In previous years there have been some changes that BARC was not aware of resulting in some last minute adjustments on our part. One example was the doggie walk where the route had been changed from the previous year, which resulted in a radio dead spot.

Coffee and Cookie Break & 50/50 Draw – The winner of the 50/50 Draw during the Coffee and Cookie Break was Rick Allen VA3WSB who graciously donated it to the Club.

Alex McGuire announced that she would let hams sign her cast with their call sign for the sum of one dollar each. Any funds collected would be turned over to the club.

Presentation – Al Duncan VE3RRD, PSK 31

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented at 2011 hrs by Jack Hartley VE3RDQ and seconded by Dave Wainwright VE3ILA. All in attendance were in favour.

The meeting was adjourned.

List of Upcoming Events

Fox Hunts (hidden transmitter hunts) – on hold until further notice

Ontario QSO Contest – April 2008

Walk for Dog Guides – May 2008 at Centennial Park Barrie

Celebrate Barrie – June 2008 at Centennial Park Barrie

Field Day – June 4, 2008 at Oro Fair Grounds

Ride for Literacy – July 2008 - 5 checkpoints around Lake Simcoe

Heritage Day – August 2008 at Oro Fair Grounds

Hamfest – September 2008 at Oro Fair Grounds

Oro World Fair – September 2008 at Oro Fair Grounds