



*Minutes of the 10 March 09
Monthly Meeting
of the
Barrie Amateur Radio Club
held at Zehr's, Big Bay Point Rd.*

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|----------------|------------------|--------|
| President | Alex McGuire | VE3PKA |
| Vice-President | Jim Collins | VE3LIC |
| Treasurer | Dave Wainwright | VE3ILA |
| Secretary | Bill Manning | VE3GWM |
| Membership | Darwin Duckworth | VA3DUC |
| Director | Jack Hartley | VE3RDQ |
| Director | Al Duncan | VE3RRD |

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 19:03 hrs by Alex McGuire VE3PKA.

Introductions

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

Treasurer's Report

VE3RRD presented the certificates to the successful course candidates.

Treasurer's Report

- Dec. 31 2008 Balance was \$2331.36

Moved by VA3MIZ and seconded by VE3SXH report is accepted as presented.

Correspondence

- Letter for HAMEX and Bank Statement

Committee Reports

- LSR

- No Report at this time
- RAG
 - Obtained Brackets for Cans almost ready to install.
- HF
 - Bands Improving DX Stations On 17 M

Old Business

- Review Field Day Plans
 - See Enclosure of Ian's Report
 - Mike agreed to do CW
 - Alinco Power Supply 243 TIP approved last year did not purchase.
 - Setup on June 26 Afternoon and tear down June 28 14:00
 - Communication Group at CFB Borden is interested.
- Course update
 - 3 people got basic +
 - 1 to basic
 - 2 people still to write.
- Pat requires input from members on constitution
 - Send Pat e-mail
- Celebrate Barrie are we participating?
 - No to participate.
- Audit Report
 - In general spreadsheet good
 - Discuss with bank getting report sooner.

New Business

- ARES Exercise for GTA and we have been asked to participate.
 - We are participating here in Barrie.
- CanWarn
 - Training in Orillia @ OPP Headquarters
 - April 26 2009 9:00 A.M.

Coffee break/50/50 draw

The 50/50 winner was Ruth Mossman VE3WFE

Guest Speaker

- Was VE3RRD.
 - Changes and betterments made to the BARC Web Site.

Motioned by VA3TWP and seconded by VE3RDQ to close the meeting @ 21:04

Carried:

Volunteers are needed for all the above events

Enc. VA3QT Report

9 March, 2009

President
Barrie Amateur Radio Club

FIELD DAY REPORT FOR BARC MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Alex, club members, unfortunately for family reasons I can not be present this evening to provide a “live” report and request that this written one serve ‘in lieu’. This is an interim progress report and I expect to bring a full report to the club, including a draft plan and website notices etc., for formal club approval at the April meeting.

At the last general meeting the club discussed the forthcoming Field Day (FD) and it was decided to conduct a “traditional one” with the emphasis on operating under emergency conditions. Our club ARES group undertook responsibility for the design and set-up of the stations and antenna systems. The support of the club as a whole is needed to help with rigging the antenna support structures, setting up the hall and displays, filling the operating schedules, and coordinating the ancillary activities such as the kitchen operation, helping to guide visitors and guests, etc.

I’m pleased to report that the ARES group has held two planning sessions which produced the general operating concept which I am now reporting on. Fortunately the ARRL FD09 Package was released immediately before the last planning meeting. The following are the major rule changes:

- a. More emphasis has been put on the GOTA station, with a commensurate ability to generate more contact and bonus points. Even more emphasis is being put on getting the inactive hams involved, introducing ham radio to youth, and making sure that newly licensed hams are involved. A new element is 500 bonus points for having a designate coach attend the

station. The GOTA station continues to be a “freebie”, not counting towards the operating class designation, but the ability to generate a significant number of bonus points is very real.

- b. Last year the (HF) digital station was a freebie. This year it must be included in the Class transmitter count. Of note digital contacts count for two points as do CW contacts so a solid participation by the CW and digital operators would greatly assist our goal of being in the top quartile of participating stations..

- b. We are still permitted to operate one quote VHF unquote station in the bands from 50 MHz and above. This transmitter does not count towards the Class determination and voice QSO’s via repeaters are prohibited. On the other hand there is increased scope for digital operations and in previous years we have not exploited the upper frequencies to the degree that we could have. More discussion on an appropriate set-up is in the works, and we certainly could use the participation of operators with weak signal and SSB experience.

Recognizing that even with ORC support last year there were significant periods where there were no operators available, the ARES group determined that Class 2A was the most appropriate choice. This is the number of HF transmitters that can be on the air simultaneously, not the number of stations we may ultimately set up for different purposes. In the past we have been restricted to a minimum operating period once there was a transmission on a new band but this restriction is now gone. Once the operating period begins factors such as band openings, propagation conditions and operator specialty skills will factor into the final decision on where to operate for best communication results.

I ask the members to keep in mind that two of the ARES objectives when it offered to organize the operating portion of Field Day were to continue improving the state of the club’s radio equipment and capabilities, and to advance the group’s ability to deploy in it’s anticipated role of support to the social services component of the Barrie emergency plan; operating in support of agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army or facilities such as shelters and hospitals. Against this backdrop:

- a. Last year the club invested in a switching power supply and computer control cable for our HF rig. We also had the use of PKA’s G5RV antenna. This year we would like to add a Windom antenna to the package and ask for club to approve the purchase of materials from Mapleleaf Communications (estimate approximately \$100). I would like to see this antenna available for field trials as soon as the ground dries up in mid to late April.

- b. Last year we had the use of a G5RV that was gifted to the club. That antenna did not work except in the 20m band and then not very

effectively. Investigation found that the 70 odd feet of RG-58 was compromised and it was replaced with an available 25-foot length of RG-8X. Once the weather improves a bit the antenna will be tested to determine if it is working properly. If not then we will have to locate an alternative multi-band dipole.

- c. We will need to borrow one if not two multi-band HF antennas to round out the antenna farm (GOTA and Winlink). If anyone has one available for temporary loan it would be appreciated.
- d. Finally, we have the club's portable "Bobbiepole", Ted's Buddypole and my Barker and Williamson AC.18-10 for tactical multi-band antennas as well as the NVIS antenna AI and Jack were working on last year to round out the antenna options.
- e. We need to hold a club work party once the weather warms up in late April/early May to go through the coax in the sea container and verify it's serviceability. There are a number of other items such as light duty extension cords, head sets, etc. which also need to be surveyed for serviceability.
- f. After looking at the placement of the various buildings there is a distinct possibility that we will need some long coax runs in order to achieve optimum antenna separation and orientation. If members have some good quality coax available for temporary loan it would be much appreciated. If they are looking for long-term storage for that coax I'm sure the club can provide that too HI HI.
- g. The club recently purchased two 100-foot extension cords. I am pleased to advise that Ted VA3TWP has converted these into two 50-foot extensions and four 25-foot extensions, each fitted with a weather tight outlet box with two duplex receptacles. This is the major part of the emergency power distribution system that the group is constructing on the club's behalf. These items are now in Jack's temporary custody.
- h. Ted has also constructed a MAGNIFICENT deployable ground system.
- i. In addition to the club's portable dual-band radio and switching power supply, through Jack VE3RDQ we were gifted a 2-metre set suitable for packet radio/Winlink 2000 Global Email System use. AI VE3RRD is marrying this up with the club's TNC. We will likely construct a 2-meter roll-up antenna for storage with this rig. We have discussed obtaining a switching power supply at previous club meetings; I would ask the club to now consider purchasing an Alinco DM-330MVT power supply

(approximately \$243.00 taxes in). A 20 dollar aluminum tool case such as the one the club dual-bander is stored in would round out the package.

- j. A goal is to construct a portable LAN system that could be deployed to a shelter location such as the Molson Arena, a facility which has very limited telecommunications infrastructure that could be used by emergency management personnel or members of the public housed in the shelter. Self contained, the proposed LAN would provide wired connections to a WL2K Paclink mail server for six to eight work stations. There is a multi-port hub and lots of CAT-5 cable in the sea container. What we need is a router (wireless if possible) to complete the basic package and a storage container. If a member has a router they care to donate to the effort it would be greatly appreciated. We need to see what the volume factor is before deciding on a storage case.
- k. The club's laptop computer was updated at the end of February with the latest versions of the applicable EMCOMM software. In addition to this computer we have access to three RVH laptops that are configured with EMCOMM software for immediate deployment. ARES group members will supply any other required computers, especially those needed for specialized operations such as PSK-31.
- l. We will need to configure all the computers with appropriate FD operating software, assuming that the package used last year is updated and released again for this year. WL2K

We are at the stage now where we have to begin the media relations portion of the project. I would request that the club media representative attend the next ARES group training session on Tuesday evening a week from now to participate in the planning discussion.

I also request that a volunteer be appointed to coordinate the kitchen operation. Ideally this person would also participate in next week's planning session.

It is also time to begin recruiting the operators. It would be much appreciated if a volunteer would come forward now to coordinate this function. The ARES group can do what it does best - set up a functioning emergency communications facility, but we need the contesters and CW operators to now join in if we want to achieve maximum contact potential during the operating phase.

Sincerely, 73,

Ian/VA3QT
FD Chair