

Champlain Regional Repeater Association  
Meeting of the Executive

July 28, 2021

7 p.m. via Zoom (to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic)

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Present: Greg VE3ECI (Chair), Tim VA3PYC (Zoom host & note taker), James VE3KAW, Robert VA3AGN, Allen VE3JGU, Randy VA3RKS, Phil VE3HOA, Graham VE3AMN

Regrets: None

Absent: None

The agenda for the meeting was circulated via email.

**Agenda**

- Review previous executive meeting minutes - Tim

Announcements:

Resumption of Wednesday breakfast

GoZoom under new ownership

Renfrew County East ARES Net on Sunday evenings on STP hosted by VE3JKV

Web domain and ISP changes - Jim

Project updates:

- STP2 VHF FM performance assessment - Phil
- STP2 VHF DMR future direction - Phil
- STP2 Remote Access/Control - Greg/Phil
- STP2 VHF FM RPI based EchoLink - Allen/Greg
- Winlink Vera FM STP next steps - Tim
- YYX - TBD
- Social events - Any ideas?
- New business:
  - Groups IO

Don VE3PM asked that we discuss ARES within the CRRA. This was added to the agenda under new business.

**Moved VA3PYC, seconded VE3ECI, that the agenda be accepted with this minor revision. Passed.**

1. Review previous executive meeting minutes – Tim (VA3PYC)

**Moved VA3PYC, seconded VE3ECI, that the minutes be accepted as presented. Passed.**

2. Greg made a number of announcements:

Resumption of Wednesday breakfast – Weekly 9 a.m. at The Flamingo in Renfrew. Some discussion ensued about why we made this change in location, but agreed that the new location is very good.

GoZoom under new ownership. Not expected to affect us. Continue to receive free power and Internet.

Jim VE3JKV is interested in hosting a Renfrew County East ARES Net on Sunday evenings on STP. Greg asked if there were any concerns? No discussion. Everyone in favour of this initiative.

Web domain and ISP changes – Jim VA3GMZ noted that our domain name is coming due in November and our hosting package needs to move to a new ISP. Jim asked if he would be the technical contact? Greg replied that this would best. In terms of the ISP, Jim is willing to do this as he does for others in the area but has concerns about being “the single point of contact.” **Agreed that we move our CRRA domain to Jim to be managed with his ISP, A2 hosting.**

#### **Project updates:**

- *STP2 VHF FM performance assessment* – Phil VE3HOA  
Greg reported that we’ve had some QRM on the repeater. Phil is planning on installing another cavity to filter the receive side further, but no update available because Phil was unable to attend this meeting.
- *STP2 VHF DMR future direction* – Phil VE3HOA  
Greg reported that the repeater is basically idle, but there is potential for it. Suggested that we network the FM and DMR cross-mode. VE3AMN had some ideas about how to do that. Greg asked for input on this suggestion. James VE3KEG noted that he purchased equipment specific for this purpose. Don VE3PM concurred, and suggested we seek more input from Phil on how to proceed with this. Greg agreed to keep this on the agenda for our next meeting. Rob VE3JA asked about the status of 440, and why we don’t link all of these? Greg noted that if we link them all, we’ll get all of the traffic going on the reflector as well, which may not be desirable.
- *STP2 Remote Access/Control* - Greg/Phil  
Greg explained the need for remote control over our equipment. Greg assembled the hardware for this with the help of Allen and Phil. They are currently in the process of getting that mounted to install it on site. Don VE3PM as the custodian

of the repeater requested that this be done as soon as possible. Allen VE3JGU asked if he delivered enough relays to Phil? Greg thought that these will be enough to shut down the main units.

- *STP2 VHF FM RPI based EchoLink* – Allen VE3JGU/Greg VE3ECI  
Allen VE3JGU reported that this is also a project “moving at a glacial pace.” Although he’s made lots of progress and it connects to the server, he has not been able to make it work over his radio.
- *Winlink VARA FM STP next steps* – Tim VA3PYC  
Tim VA3PYC reported that he has not done anything on this project, but may return to it this winter. Some discussion followed with VE3YX who acknowledged that it would be an asset if communication systems did ever go down.
- YYX – TBD (tabled for a future meeting)

Social events - Any ideas? Brief discussion, but decided to leave it until 2022, and focus on our Wednesday breakfasts for the rest of this year.

#### **New business:**

*Groups IO* – Greg VE3ECI reported that VA3IAH suggested we might use Groups IO, but we’ll defer this discussion until he might attend.

#### *ARES associated with CRRRA*

Tim VA3PYC summarized Peter Gamble’s VE3BQP recent communications regarding EMRG and how it is coming to an end in Ottawa. Don VE3PM noted that ARES is still a big focus in the U.S., and he’d be interested in knowing more about its future in Canada and more locally specifically. He asked, will there be a use for us if we did do this training and prepared? Bob VE3YX noted that understanding the client is important, and the Red Cross running shelters may be very interested in ARES support. He has contacted a local Red Cross leader to inquire, but hasn’t had a response as yet. Agreed that Don, Ed and Jim will continue to investigate options for ARES in the local community and keep others in the loop.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.**