

Champlain Regional Repeater Association  
Annual General Meeting 2023

May 23, 2023

7 p.m. via Zoom (an approach adopted during COVID-19 but continued because more members seem to be able to attend the meetings in this format)

---

Present: Greg VE3ECI (Chair), Ed VA3EJT (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Alan VA3IAH (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Zoom host), Phil VE3HOA (Technical Director), Robert VA3AGN (Net Manager), Tim VA3PYC (Secretary), Graham VE3AMN, Bill VE3TUC, Randy VA3RKS, Alan VE3JGU, Bob VE3YX, Ron VE3RKB, Rob VE3JA, Greg VA3GMA, Tyler VA3DGN, Lee VA3CQD, Sandy VE3AAC

The agenda for the meeting was circulated via email in advance of the meeting.

Agenda

Call Meeting to Order

Review 2022 AGM Minutes: Tim VA3PYC

Executive Reports:

- President's Report - Greg VE3ECI
- Treasurer's Report - Greg VE3ECI for James VE3KAW
- Net Manager's Report - Robert VA3AGN
- Technical Director Report - Phil VE3HOA
- WebMaster Report - Alan VA3IAH

Special Project Updates:

- STP2 Allstar - Phil VE3HOA
- STP2 Power System Upgrade - Graham VE3AMN
- STP2 Power Control - Ed VA3EJT
- VE3YYX UHF Repeater - Ed VA3EJT
- champlainrepeater.ca Discussion Forum - Alan VA3IAH

New Business & Round Table Member Input Adjourn Meeting

**The meeting began at 7:15 p.m.**

Greg began with a welcome and by asking everyone in attendance to identify themselves in attendance.

**Motion to accept the agenda as presented** (Tim, Graham)

Passed unanimously.

**Review of the minutes – outstanding business from previous meetings**

Tim VA3PYC noted that the most important thing that happened at the 2022 AGM was Bill's VE3TUC nomination of Graham VE3AMN for an honorary lifetime membership given his many contributions to the CRRRA. A variety of technical updates were presented at the 2022 AGM, some of which we will revisit tonight I expect. One issue that warrants continued attention that was noted in last year's minutes and in 2021 pertains to membership. As Greg noted in 2021, "Membership is stable but stagnant. Without donations we would have a tough time paying the bills. We need a vision for realistic growth." Tim noted that the nightly net has certainly raised the profile of the CRRRA, and we may want to try and leverage this towards further memberships or contributions.

**Motion to accept the minutes of the past meeting as posted.** (Tim, Robert)

**Discussion:** Graham VE3AMN said we were much too generous with the nomination.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2022 AGM passed unanimously.

**Executive Reports:****1. President's Report - Greg VE3ECI****Highlights**

- Recent ongoing maintenance of VE3STP 147.06 MHz has improved it considerable. Greg noted it currently has flawless performance - Thanks to Phil VE3HOA for all of this work.
- 2 - 120 VAC ->12 VDC converters have been donated to the CRRRA - Thanks to Dave VE3LBO for this contribution.
- Greg noted a \$300 donation for the power plant battery - Thanks to Jeff VE3EFF
- Excellent progress has been made on the power control system. More discussion of this later in the meeting - Thanks to Ed VA3EJT
- Net Control coverage – We continue to require a few more net controllers. Many thanks to Ron VE3RKB for filling the gaps recently.
- champlainrepeater.ca interim webmaster transition - Thanks Alan VA3IAH
- Power plant build spec, converter commissioning and cabling - Thanks Graham VE3AMN (see minutes below for more details).
- VE3YYX repeater custodianship moved to VA3ETJ Ed for redeployment (see minutes below for more details).

**Going Forward**

- We need to further understand the requirements of the Not-for-Profit Corporation bylaw implications that come into effect October 18, 2024.

- As noted above, we do need to recruit Net Controllers - Monday or Saturday (currently covered by VE3RKB Ron) are open and we need standbys.
- As is documented in the minutes below, we need to complete STP2 power plant and control before the snow flies.
- STP Allstar for 145.39- FM in service. Enables FM analog access to XLX197 B multiprotocol gateway reflector [xlx197.dyndns.org/index.php](http://xlx197.dyndns.org/index.php)
- STP Site 1 access needs bushwhacking attention. The access road is becoming overgrown.
- There has been a request that STP 147.06 FM ID & announcement voice change.

## 2. *2023 AGM Treasurers Report VE3ECI Greg for VE3KAW James*

Greg explained that James VE3KAW is unable to serve in the capacity of treasurer at this time. Greg said that he is willing to fulfill these duties until next year which is an election year.

### ***Financials May 2022 to May 2023***

- Balance May 2022 - \$2712.18
- Balance May 2023 - \$2973.43
- Income - \$1158.27
  - \$555 Memberships (26)
  - \$600 Donations
  - \$3.27 Interest
- Expenses - \$870.00
  - \$170.74 Web Hosting and Domain Name (not an annual expense)
  - \$520.28 Club Insurance
  - \$175.98 Power Control
  - \$3.00 Interac Send Fees
- 26 Members in good standing - 3 Lifetime Members

### ***Financial Outlook***

- Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) club donation for International Telecommunication Union's World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) 2023 - Bill VE3TUC noted that he will make a formal motion that *the CRRA make a donation for this conference* in the New Business section.
- Does the club require a Zoom account @ \$200/year? (Discussed under "Other Business" below).
- 2024 Insurance >\$500 due Y-E 2023. Individual RAC membership will substantially reduce cost per club member calculation. Greg encouraged everyone to consider membership in RAC.
- Sizeable AH storage battery for STP2 power project \$400-500 range.
- We need to encourage the STP community to contribute membership dues and donations anytime. The nightly net provides an opportunity for this.

- Greg reminded members that the membership fees are \$25.00 per person and \$40 for family. Donations are also welcome. Preferred membership payment method is Interac to [ve3kaw@2342.ca](mailto:ve3kaw@2342.ca)  
Cash or cheque payment by mail can be addressed to:
- Champlain Regional Repeater Association  
c/o James Bell

PO Box 1784, Almonte ON

K0A 1A0

3. *Net Manager Report – Robert VA3AGN*

Robert has not yet been able to prepare a summary for the past year. He will share his Excel file with Tim VA3PYC or Steve VE3KEG for analysis and share the results as soon as possible.

4. *Technical Director Report – Phil VE3HOA*

Phil noted that the main STP repeater on 147.06 MHz had a number of noise issues this past year. Phil made numerous site visits, the last of which was on January 25<sup>th</sup> (a difficult trip given winter conditions). He swapped cables, cleaned connectors and tuned filters. It worked! Phil monitors the repeater regularly. He will be doing a site visit this May. Phil also note that the hardware for 145.39 was also removed for maintenance. Will be reinstalled this spring/summer. Jeff VE3EFF put together an ALLSTAR package to hook up to his reflector ([xlx197.dyndns.org/index.php](http://xlx197.dyndns.org/index.php)), and when Phil is reinstalling 145.39 the ALLSTAR package will go online.

Phil also briefly described the Meshtastic network that a few club members have begun to use. He and Jeff VE3EFF will be installing one of these radios on site 1 this summer. Phil then showed attendees the hardware and software for this system summarizing basic functions and purpose.

Greg asked if 145.39 will be installed on the main array? Phil explained that would require a multi-coupler so he doesn't want to affect the performance of STP at this point.

5. *Webmaster Report – Alan VA3IAH*

Alan noted that web maintenance is a new role for him, but he's been able to make the updates required. He is interested in developing a forum on the website as a possible venue for drawing in new members. Alan noted that he has written an article for *The Rambler* about Meshtastic that featured Phil's VE3HOA and Jeff's VE3EFF set up.

**Special Project Updates:**

1. *STP2 Allstar - Phil VE3HOA*

See notes above.

2. *STP2 Power System Upgrade - Graham VE3AMN*

Graham reported that earlier in the winter he used #00 wire to build the cables for the main power bus to join the 3 racks. He also built the panel to mount the two rectifiers (or chargers) that were donated by Dave VE3LBO. Graham showed photographs of his work to date explaining how it is built and why. He is now ready to install these with the assistance of Phil VE3HOA and/or Ed VA3EJT. He is looking forward to getting them out of his garage! This should solve the voltage fluctuation problems we have experienced at Site 2.

3. *STP2 Power Control - Ed VA3EJT*

Ed presented a photograph of an early version of his build to document his work on the power control unit that he has designed and built. The panel is fully assembled now. A little software configuration remains. It's really a matter now to finish the mechanical assembly and then it will be ready for Graham to install.

4. *VE3YYX UHF Repeater - Ed VA3EJT*

Ed presented a series of slides including the coverage of the repeater from his QTH as he has been working on it. He also presented two slides that included photographs of the rack with filters as well as the radios that he is using. In a word, it's all amazing!

Greg asked when it might be installed? Ed noted that he will continue testing throughout the summer while he prepares the tower. A fall installation will be much better in terms of the bugs.

Randy commented on how well done Ed's work was.

5. *champlainrepeater.ca Discussion Forum - Alan VA3IAH*

Alan will discuss this further with the executive, and then he will explore the implementation if there is interest in this function.

*New Business & Member Input*

Bill VE3TUC proposed that the CRRA denote \$100 (One hundred dollars) to the DARF fund. He explained the background to the request in terms of the importance of the meeting to amateur radio. Moved by Bill VE3TUC, Seconded by Tim VA3PYC. Vote was unanimously in favour.

Greg once again encouraged members to join RAC if they see the benefits in joining. Membership certainly benefits the CRRA in terms of insurance.

Greg asked if we see any value in having a Zoom account? We use Zoom a few times a year (AGM and Executive meetings at the very least). Alan VA3IAH noted that his family will be retiring their account, and suggested that we research other options before adopting Zoom. Bob VE3YX noted that other clubs have been using Google Meets, but it is not as easy or feature rich as Zoom. Greg agreed to do some further research.

Greg invited each member in attendance to make closing comments.

- Bill VE3TUC noted that we used to host a joint meeting with the Almonte Amateur Radio Club (AARC), and asked if we are considering this in the future? It was suggested that we attend one of their Wednesday morning coffee meetings or a Wednesday night wing night at the Almonte Legion.
- Many members complimented VA3EJT on his projects this past year with Echolink and the power controller as well as thanking Phil VE3HOA for his consistent work with our repeater.
- Finally, members thanked Greg for his ongoing, effective leadership.

Greg VE3ECI moved to adjourn, seconded by Tim VA3PYC. All in favour.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.