

Champlain Regional Repeater Association
Annual General Meeting 2026

May 27, 2026
7 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Greg VE3ECI (Chair), Ed VA3EJT (1st Vice President), Alan VA3IAH (2nd Vice President), Robert VA3AGN (Net Manager), Tim VA3PYC (Secretary), Curt VE3ZN, Ron VE3RKB, Bob VE3YX, David VE3KIM, Dave VE3YNC, Bill VE3TUC, Graham VE3AMN

Regrets: Phil VE3HOA (Technical Director), Cristian VA3CTQ, Al VE3YTT

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

Agenda

Call Meeting to Order

Review 2025 AGM Minutes: Tim VA3PYC

Review CRRA executive board going forward: Greg VE3ECI

Executive Reports:

- President's & Treasurer's Report: Greg VE3ECI
- Net Manager's Report: Robert VA3AGN
- Technical Operations: Phil VE3HOA & Ed VA3EJT

New Business:

- VE3STP-10 Winlink Gateway: Tim VA3PYC & Phil VE3HOA
- Defining CRRA ARES capabilities: Tim VA3PYC

Round Table Members Input

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting began at 7:08 p.m.

Greg introduced new members and ask them to say a few words about themselves including Dave VE3NYC and David VE3KIM, and then Greg presented the agenda.

Motion to accept the agenda as presented (Tim VA3PYC, Don VE3PM)

Passed unanimously.

Review of the minutes – outstanding business from previous meetings

Tim VA3PYC noted that our focus as a club is reflected in the name of our association – Champlain Regional Repeater Association – so not surprisingly, key points from last year’s AGM were the progress made on our repeater site through the many hours put in by Phil VE3HOA and Ed VA3EJT in terms of the replacement of the antenna array in the summer of 2024, the installation of a Yaesu DR-2X C4FM/FM repeater, continued work on an APRS telemetry system that Ed designed to monitor and control our repeater sites as well as the renewal of our lease for the Site 2 tower negotiated by Greg VE3ECI. Finally, another highlight of last year’s AGM was acknowledgment of the excellent work that Alan VA3IAH did in organizing a small committee of executive members to revise and update the CRRA Bylaws to conform to Ontario Non-profit Corporation Act. Those are key highlights from the minutes of the 2025 CRRA AGM.

MOTION: Tim VA3PYC moved that the 2025 AGM minutes be accepted as presented last spring after the meeting and as highlighted just now. (Seconded by Ron VE3RKB)

Discussion: None

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2025 AGM passed unanimously.

Executive Reports:

1. President’s Report - Greg VE3ECI

Greg began by explaining that this is an election year, and it was communicated to the membership list and a “friends” list that all positions are open on the Executive this year. This was also announced on the nets and in communications about the AGM well prior to the AGM (fulfilling the 14-day notice required by our By-Laws). Given that no one expressed an interest in running for any position, Greg approached the existing Executive members to ask if they were willing to continue for another 2-year term. All agreed, and Greg thanked all for offering to continue this work. He also noted, however, that we are still in need of a Treasurer. No one in attendance expressed interest. Greg then listed the continuing executive members: Greg VE3ECI (Chair), Ed VA3EJT (1st Vice President), Alan VA3IAH (2nd Vice President), Robert VA3AGN (Net Manager), Tim VA3PYC (Secretary).

Highlights

Greg began his presentation summarizing key highlights for the year. These are listed in point form below.

- STP1 Telemetry Implementation VE3STP-[1-4] available at aprs.fi. Greg thanked Ed for this research, design and construction. This work

addressed many issues we have been facing in monitoring and controlling the equipment at both our repeater sites.

- STP2 Status & Power Control over APRS – Again, Greg thanked Ed for this work as it was a complicated system to design and deploy, and it now allows us to remotely control power by Internet or by APRS. This is a very good feature for responsible and remote control of our repeater site.
- Moved VE3STP packet to from STP1 to STP2 – Thanks to Phil, Ed & Tim.
- STP2 Deployed Winlink Gateway dual mode VARA FM & packet - Tim & team. Greg noted that Tim designed the gateway and Phil and Ed helped him set that up at Site 2. More discussion of this later in the meeting, see below.
- Established ongoing Web Hosting Canada (WHC) CRRA web hosting and domain name service - Thanks to Cristian VA3CTQ for this ongoing work.
- Shared Zoom account with the AARC. Greg thanked Phil VE3HOA for coordinating this with the Almonte group.
- Improvements to our VE3STP 147.06 repeater duplexer. Greg showed photos of Phil VE3HOA hard at work cleaning and adjusting the duplexer at our repeater site. Many thanks to Phil for this work and the many other hours he has spent this past year keeping our repeater working.
- Keeping our Champlain STP net alive. Greg thanked Robert VA3AGN and the other controllers: Ron VE3RKB, Tim VA3PYC, Greg VE3ECI, Alan VA3IAH, for their steadfast commitment to our nightly net.

What's Next?

- Continue to troubleshoot EchoLink performance issues. We have had issues recently with EchoLink. Phil VE3HOA has moved Echolink to and from his own QTH to adjust it. It is improving, but this work continues.
- Move VE3STP packet to STP1 on 145.030 Mhz until next equinox? Greg VE3ECI has proposed that we make this move this summer and invited comments on this. No discussion ensued, so we expect we will move the packet station as planned.
- Put the Yaesu DR-2X 444.225 C4FM and FM analog repeater back on the air. This winter, Phil VE3HOA removed this repeater from Site 2 while troubleshooting some issues we had. Phil and Greg are now proposing to put this repeater back on the air early this summer if not sooner. Don

VE3PM asked if Greg knows how many local amateurs have C4FM capability? Greg noted that some, for example David VE3KIM, do, but that the repeater also runs regular FM, and the reflector accommodates other DV modes.

- Finally, Greg noted that in the year ahead will be considering our ARES or auxiliary communications capacity and what we might want to formalize as a CRRA policy. There has been some initial discussion of what the CRRA might do for the municipality if called upon in the case of a communication emergency. More discussion of this later in the meeting (see the attached position paper prepared by Tim VA3PYC).

2. 2025 AGM Treasurers Report Greg VE3ECI (Acting Treasurer)

Greg explained that he continues to be the acting treasurer. He then summarized key financial data.

Financials May 2025 to May 2026

- Balance May 2025 - \$2949.76
- Balance May 2026 - \$2742.48

Income – May 2026 - \$1091.13 (May 2024 \$941.16)

- \$610 Memberships - 28 renewals since May 2025
- \$480 Donations
- \$1.13 Interest

Expenses – \$1248.41

- \$430.64 Club Insurance
- \$353.55 STP1 Telemetry Equipment
- \$50.82 Web Hosting Canada (WHC) Domain Name
- \$284.48 WHC 3 Year Contract
- \$121.42 Zoom (\$242.84 total shared with AARC)
- \$7.50 Interac Fees

- 28 Members in good standing (AGM to AGM)

Financial Outlook

Greg note the following:

- Donations are fundamental for club's sustainability.
- RAC insurance is the largest periodic expense.
- RAC membership reduces insurance cost.

- Based on our expenses exceeding our income, Greg asked whether we should raise annual membership dues? (More for non-RAC members for example?)
After a lengthy discussion with contributions from everyone in attendance, including comparisons with other local club membership fees, a motion was made to raise the yearly membership fee.

MOTION: Ron VE3RKB moved that we increase the membership fee to Thirty Five Dollars (\$35). Seconded by Tim VA3PYC.

DISCUSSION: The only additional discussion was to note that we don't want a membership fee to be a barrier to participation in the CRRA, and we encouraged that this be communicated to members: If the fee is an economic hardship for the prospective or continuing member, that they pay what they can rather than leave the CRRA.

Motion to raise the membership fee to \$35 was passed unanimously.

- Finally, Greg VE3ECI noted that he will remain acting Treasurer until someone is willing to fill an executive position.

3. *Net Manager Report – Robert VA3AGN*

At the request of the Net Manager, Robert VA3AGN, Tim VA3PYC made a presentation of the net reports for the past year. See attached.

Robert VA3AGN thanked all of the net controllers for their steadfast commitment and congratulated Alan VA3IAH for running the most nets over the past year. As always, Robert also welcomed others who would like to join in as a net controller. Alan VA3IAH noted that one of the things that could be interesting as a model based on his experience on an Ottawa net is that perhaps we have a roster of interested net controllers to step up even as little as one time a month, not a weekly commitment. In larger clubs this can even be as little as 4 times per year. Alan added we can even think about the XLX reflector and how we might use that for nets once the Yaesu repeater is put back into service. These are things the executive might discuss at an upcoming meeting as well.

4. *Technical Operations: Phil VE3HOA & Ed VA3EJT*

Ed VA3EJT reported that the APRS equipment has been running well for a year, and these data show us that in the winter we have to clear the snow off of the panels. In addition, the trees are an issue in terms of prime charging time (noon to 1:30 p.m.). Some consideration could be given to opening that area up. Robert VA3AGN asked about "hoods" like those used on a satellite dish and whether

these might be used. Bill VE3TUC suggested that the angle of the panel might be changed. Alan VA3IAH added that typically more panels are necessary when not enough power is being generated due to environmental conditions. Ed VA3EJT noted that the controller is maxed out with the current panels. Greg VE3ECI added that there are no obvious easy solutions here, but it is an issue we need to think through this summer and early fall to be prepared for next winter. Finally, Ed VA3EJT explained that the township keeps the road plowed throughout the winter, so it is only a short walk (150 meter snowshoe trip) from the road to the repeater site and panels.

5. *New Business:*

a. **VE3STP-10 Winlink Gateway: Tim VA3PYC & Phil VE3HOA**

Tim VA3PYC made a PPT presentation outlining the purpose and architecture of Winlink, as well as providing details about the new RMS gateway that he, Phil VE3HOA and Ed VA3EJT installed at Site 2 in early May 2026. See attached presentation. The Winlink gateway VE3STP-10 has been running reliably although there are still few operators in the area using Winlink.

Alan VA3IAH noted that he participates in PacNET locally, and perhaps we could make them aware of this new gateway. Alan looks forward to doing Winlink this fall and may move to Direwolf to enable digipeating. Tim also thanked Don VE3PM as the custodian of our repeater site for initiating the request to the Winlink Administrator for permission to establish this gateway.

b. **Defining CRRA ARES capabilities: Tim VA3PYC**

Tim VA3PYC circulated a position paper prior to the meeting (see attached). He briefly summarized the purpose of the paper and invited comments from members in attendance and from any member at a later date. In terms of next steps, he asked that the executive discuss this paper further, identify a coordinator who can take action on some of the items listed at the end of the paper.

c. **Round Table Members Input**

Don VE3PM found the various initiatives interesting and thanked those involved. Robert VA3AGN indicated his interest in collaborating on ARES work and noted he would provide comments on the position paper. David VE3KIM thanked the executive and found lots of stimulating issues to follow up on, for example, WaveTalkers. Bob VE3YX asked who would be willing to join the call-out list for ARES in the Renfrew County. Tim VA3PYC and Robert VA3AGN agreed. Bill VE3TUC noted that he has had a long-time interest in ARES with a great deal of experience working with municipal governance. He will provide comments to Tim based on this previous experience. Dave VE3YNC recalled how last fall when he got back into amateur radio that the nightly net felt welcoming and he is happy

to have joined the CRRA. Ed VA3EJT noted that he will provide comments on Tim's paper and learn more about Winlink (both on his long "to-do" list). Finally, Alan VA3IAH thanked the members who have generously provided their technical expertise and time to keep the repeater and other assets working so well. Closing comments by Don VE3PM noted that we should announce the upcoming change in membership fees as soon as possible to those not in attendance.

6. Adjourn Meeting

Greg VE3ECI moved to adjourn. All in favour.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.