



# Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club

Secretary's Report for the March 26th, 2019 Meeting

In attendance were: George-WA1JMM, Karen, Kevin-W1KMC, Ben-WA1PBR, Neal-K1CWO, Rob, Dave-KB1WRZ, Debbie K.-KB1WRY, Debbie E.-K1DAE, Bill-KB1WEA

GUESTS: None

Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club president George Dean (WA1JMM) convened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dave – KB1WRZ gave a presentation on the Can-AM Sled Dog race that he helped out at again this year in Fort Kent.

3 races were held over the course of 3 days, a 30 mile, 100 mile, and 250 mile. The 250 race is used as a qualifier for the Alaskan Iditarod, the 100 mile race to which KC1HAI Rico Patalatin (member? Of PARC had won, and the 30 mile race.

Dave and other members participating in comms, met in Fort Kent on Friday. On Saturday morning at 'Oh Dark Thirty', as Dave called it, he and two other Hams, Cathy-KB1MHH and Bill-NT1N headed out to their 30 mile checkpoint.

During the night, Dave had said that Main St. in Fort Kent had been 'paved' in snow making it easier for the teams to get going.

Prior to this year, at the checkpoint where Dave and his team were, was a place referred to as 'The Porcupine Hilton', but this year they had to make do with an Ice-Shack as the "Hilton" was not there anymore.

All equipment and food for these checkpoints had to be brought in on snowmobiles.

The 30 and 100 mile races were run on Saturday and the 250 on Sunday. Steve Jordan-KD1OM, Pine State's president was at the Portage checkpoint. Steve met up with Dave at one point and said where he was they had no comms ability but the person he was with had Echolink (for more on Echolink see <http://echolink.org> – for help with setting it up contact Kevin-W1KMC, at the club's phone number on the website), to which he had his Cell phone and a link set up at this house as a relay for the race. Editorial: Although some say Echolink is not radio, as it can be computer to computer also, it does have the capability of connecting to radios, which is why Echolink verifies call signs. :End Editorial by Kevin ☺

Dave said that it was an experience to watch the come in for their mandatory 5-hour rest, and to see the team of vets swarm over the dog teams to make sure the dogs were OK to go on to the next checkpoint.

The finish line had all the time keepers , handlers, etc.

The last team came in Monday afternoon, after which people were free to leave.

Dave's comment was that the HF communications did not function as well, but the 2-meter did work well. His other comment was that there were no FRS (Family Radio Service) radios at the site(s) the number were done by runners on Post-It Notes.

Some of the key people for this race were:

Derrick Ouellette- KB1WKA – Race Coordinator

Gary Gillman – N1ZNJ – Net Control

Cathy Hinds – KB1MHH and Bill Akins-NT1N – Part of Dave's team

Jack Caron-W1AYX

Many thanks to Dave and Debbie K. for the excellent presentation (Debbie put together the slide show Tuesday afternoon – great job!)

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Treasury had \$ 1,438.20 as of 03/26/2019 which includes a payment to Emera for electricity of \$ 32.39

Stickney Hill repeater – Ben says everything looks OK. Paul-N1BUG says that the equipment is getting older, and it may be time to look into getting another repeater. The club has a backup , but it is just as old as the current one. This lead to a discussion on fund-raising methods for a new repeater. This will be taken up at the next meeting.

K1PQ repeater is OK as well.

Bill say we need more testing on the simplex for the Piscataquis River race. The conclusion is that we can operate in either simplex or duplex mode 144.400 TX with a RX of 146.400 . Bill demonstrated this using EchoStation which is a repeater controller software which he had running on his laptop with a Signalink USB plugged into a handheld. (see his short video on the FB group page (if you have FB)).

## OLD BUSINESS

Terry and Margie will be unable to attend the Piscataquis River Race this year, so George will be Simplex Net Control.

Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race (in support of Pine State ARC, we all just get along ☺) is on April 20th.

PARC crew is: George-WA1JMM, Dave-KB1WRZ, Debbie K.-KB1WRY, amd Ben-WA1PBR

Piscataquis River Race: April 27th  
So far, we have:

George-WA1JMM – Net Control  
Joan and Gary – Bridge  
John-KC2UZT and Patty-KB1TUY – Covered Bridge  
Steve-KD1OM – Cemetery  
Dave-KB1WRZ – Merrill Brook  
Kevin-W1KMC and Rob – Trestle Bridge  
Ben-WA1PBR and Debbie K-KB1WRY – Finish Line

George got the t-shirt sizes for this year's race shirts.

Pre-race meeting at McDonald's at 09:00 AM in Dover-Foxcroft.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Sebec River Race is May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This will be discussed next meeting.

Kevin-W1KMC (webmaster) does have one poll for the group at large:

We have a master list of all members (from prior years that we keep updated best we can) that has Name, Call, Address, Phone number(s) and Email addresses. Right now it is in the hands of the officers of the club (George, Bill, Ben, Debbie E., and Kevin (he keeps Debbie E. straight ☺ as well as being the webmaster).

Question is should we make this available to the whole club via the website (weather public, or via a password protected folder for the files. It's not so much address as that is available anyways through the FCC database but more of emails and phone numbers.

Kevin is working on a project where members can opt-in (Officers are automatic) to have a phone extension connected to make their phones ring and if a voicemail is left to email it to you. In this way everyone keeps their numbers private. What do you think? Please email [w1kmc@arrl.net](mailto:w1kmc@arrl.net) with feedback, thank you.

Test it yourself (sort of) the club's phone numbers are: 207-631-2593 and a toll free at 888-587-9296 this plays an intro message and goes right to an operator, the menus are pending). We can do a lot with this, but baby steps for now.

Net Control Stations for the month are:

March 27th – KB1WRZ-Dave | April 03rd – KB1WEA-Bill | 10<sup>th</sup>: – WA1JMM-George |  
17th – W1KMC-Kevin

Acknowledgements:

Dave-KB1WRZ for the excellent presentation

Debbie K – KB1WRY for the presentation slide show and making Dave look good (his words, not mine. He actually said that if not for the slide show Debbie did it would have been about five minutes, instead of the 20-30 minutes it was.

Next Meeting will be April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 19:00 (7:00pm) at the Milo Town Office.

ADDENDUM:

Meeting adjourned at 20:15 (8:15 PM)

Respectfully submitted by K1DAE Debbie Ellis – Secretary.