

Nortown Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the January 4, 2008 Meeting

Present:

Frans VE3VNC	John VA3AAD	David VE3VNE
Geoff VA3GEG	Martin VE3MHC	John VA3MDJ
Doug VE3EES	Bert VE3ENA	Elliot VA3EJF
Jal VE3SOC	Bernard VE3OTR	

Recent member-attendees who were absent and who missed a great presentation:

Claus VE3PMD	Bill VE3WHW	Cyril VA3CJE
Chris VE3CNK	Jeff VE3QBZ	Sam VA3SEP
Reg VA3REJ	Andrew VA3CRA	Tom VE3TEG
Vipi VE3PID	Paul VE3PGF	Ian VE3IJS
Jim VE3GRT	Tony VE3VME	

John, VA3AAD, introduced guest Bernard Roche, VE3OTR, who has been a ham for about 15 years

Old Business

Annual Festive Dinner

John, VA3AAD thanked Ian VE3IJS for organizing the dinner which, again, was enjoyed by all

Repeater

Tom, VE3TEG, was not present to report on whether there has been any progress on the Yonge/Sheppard repeater site.

John, VA3AAD, reported that he and Elliot, VA3EJF, visited the Building Manager at 2 Clair East on December 11th. An excellent location in the equipment room is available to us, with easy access to the roof. However, that building is flanked by two taller buildings to the east and to the west. We advised the manager that we still wanted to try to get permission to install the repeater on the taller building at 2 St. Clair West (our previous location), but would make a decision fairly rapidly.

Elliot, VA3EJF, reported that the 2 St. Clair East manager had given the Club an inactive repeater system that had been located in a lower floor closet. The power supply is inoperative, but the two Motorola GR300 radios seem to be in good condition, and could be used as lower-power repeater backups.

Elliot, VA3EJF had obtained the name of the building services manager at 2 St. Clair West and on December 20th, John, VA3AAD, hand-delivered a letter to him requesting permission to install the repeater. We have not yet received a response, but if none is received by January 15th, we will follow-up..

John, VA3AAD, reported that we seem to have “lost” the G.E. Phoenix radio that was destined to be used with the repeater for IRLP work. Last May, it was given to a Rob Gills, VA3CMT, to change the PLL tone, but we have been unable to locate Rob. John, VA3MDJ, pointed out that the recently-acquired GR300 radios could serve this purpose.

Sunday Morning Net

Martin, VE3MHC reported that north-south propagation on 28.300 MHz. on Sunday mornings seems to vary considerably from one week to the next. For some reason (perhaps fewer tall buildings in the path), east-wst propagation seems to be consistently good.

New Business

Equipment Donation

John, VA3AAD thatnked Geoff, VA3GEG, for donating a working 386 laptop to the Club, with power supply, mouse and the Windows 3.1 operating system. The Club usually sells such equipment at ham-fests, rather than raffling it off at meetings. (Subsequently, the computer was sold to John, VA3MDJ, for \$50, a price that is substantially higher than Frans, VE3VNC, estimates that he could have received for it at a ham-fest.)

Presentations.

The following presentations are scheduled in the coming months:

John, VA3AAD, January 18

Elliot, VA3EFF, April 4

Bert, VE3ENA, April 18

Martin, VE3MHC, May 16

Volunteers are still needed for the Feb, 7, Feb, 15, March 7. May 2 and June 6 meetings..

Presentation

Frans, VE3VNC, gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on refurbishing boat anchors. He also brought in an impressive WWII Collins 390A communications receiver, that he had worked on, that was in pristine condition. It weighed 85 pounds and had replaceable modules. These units were originally manufactured for the US government for \$38,400 each (about equivalent to \$200K in today’s dollars). He also brought in samples of various cleaning agents, polishes and paints used by refurbishers.

Financial

The meeting's coffee collection was \$8.50. There was no equipment raffle.

Next Meeting

Will be held at the same location, at 8:00 PM on Friday, January 8th. The presentation at this meeting will be much less impressive. John, VA3AAD will demonstrate a portable 70cm Yagi antenna that he has built.

73's,

John, VA3AAD

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