

Nortown Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the June 20th, 2008 Meeting

Present:

John VA3AAD
Elliot VA3EJF
Martin VE3MHC

John VA3MDJ
Doug VE3EES
Jim VE3GRT

Tony VE3VME
Ian VE3IJS

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Chris VE3CNK
Rej VA3REJ
Jal VE3SOC
Bert VE3ENA
Frans VE3VNC
Cyril VA3CJE

Bill VE3WHW
Jeff VE3QBZ
Tom VE3TEG
Andrew VA3CRA
Jana VE3BFU
Paul VE3PGF

Geoff VA3GEG
Sam VA3SEP
Bernie VE3OTR
Ron VA3CCR
Vipi VE3PID
David VE3VNE

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD, reported that there have been no further developments on the repeater installation. The June 2nd Nortown letter suggesting contract wording changes is being processed by the GE Real Estate legal group. He will follow-up next week.

July 26th Field Trip to the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in Kingston

Jim, VE3GRT, reported that he had received only one expression of interest (from John, VA3AAD) to participate in this field trip. During the discussion, John, VA3MDJ, and Elliot, VE3EJF also expressed interest.

It will cost about \$380 to rent an 11 passenger (including the driver) bus for the day, or about \$40 per person if we can get 10 members to share the cost.

The date is Saturday, July 26th. We'll meet at 8:00 AM at the Bayview arena parking lot. The museum opens at 11:00AM on weekends. For more details about the museum, see: http://www.c-and-e-museum.org/hist_e1.htm

Members who wish to participate in this field trip should contact Jim Flowers, VE3GRT at 416-226-4713 or by email at jim.flowers@sympatico.ca in order to reserve a spot.

A decision will be made on July 5th as to whether or not to rent the bus, depending upon the degree of interest.

Repeater Backup

During the summer break, John, VA3MDJ, expects to arrange to get the duplexer (on the Motorola repeater pair of transceivers, that were given to the Club by GE), tuned to our 443.650 / 448.650 MHz. repeater frequency. This item will be carried over to the September meeting.

Articles of Incorporation – Amendment

The amendment clarifying requirements for the auditing of Club financial statements, that was attached to the June 6th minutes, was approved, on a motion by John, VA3MDJ, seconded by Ian, VE3IJS. A sufficient number of proxies have been obtained from members who were absent to comply with requirements of the Articles of Incorporation. A copy of the articles is attached to these minutes.

New Business

Field Day – Weekend of June 28th.

Tony, VE3VME, reported that he had received only three commitments from members to participate in this year's Field Day. After some discussion, it was agreed, with some reluctance, that there would not be a sufficient number of people available to erect towers and that therefore the Club would not participate in this activity this year. It was noted that this would be the first time in some 60 years that the Club would not be a participant.

Elliot, VA3EJF, will advise Tom Job, VE3II, that the Club will not be able to take advantage of his hospitality this year.

BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) Developments

Ian, VE3IJS, noted that the ARRL has been successful, through a court challenge, in getting the FCC to re-open BPL proceedings, on grounds that prejudice tainted the rulemaking process. He also noted that a BPL deployment in Texas has been aborted because of insufficient consumer interest.

John, VA3MDJ, stated that with the ready-availability of dish antennas in many rural areas, there is usually an insufficient economic incentive for BPL deployment. He pointed out that in Toronto, "smart" power meters, that record time-of-day usage in the 1.2 GHz band, and that are a secondary assignment, have the potential to interfere with amateur communications. The Club will monitor this development.

Financial

The amount of meeting's coffee collection was \$9.00. At the June 6th meeting, \$11.50. was collected. There was no equipment raffle.

Since our fiscal year ends on July 31st, members who have any outstanding expense claims are asked to submit them promptly to Martin, VE3MHC, at:

martin.h.costa@gmail.com

Next Meeting

Will be held at the same location, at 8:00 PM on Friday, September 19th. The presentation topic will be announced in an email reminder for that meeting.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable, productive summer,
73's,
John, VA3AAD
www.eternalchaos.com