

Nortown Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the February 6th, 2009 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ	David VE3VNE	Bernie VE3OTR
Ian VE3IJS	Elliot VA3EJF	Frans VE3VNC
John VA3AAD	Bert VE3ENA	Doug VE3EES
Jim VE3GRT	Vipi VE3PID	

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD	Bill VE3WHW	Geoff VA3GEG
Sam VA3SEP	Rej VA3REJ	Tom VE3TEG
Andrew VA3CRA	Ron VA3CCR	Jana VE3BFU
Jost VE3SWI	Tony VE3VME	Paul VE3PGF
Cyril VA3CJE	Martin VE3MHC	

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3MDJ stated that he and John, VA3AAD had not been able to get together to work on the repeater, as was outlined in the last meeting's minutes, but that he was hopeful that some progress would be made before the end of the month.

During a discussion about the repeater's four-second "tail", immediately after the end of each transmission, during which interval the repeater continues to transmit a carrier, John, VA3AAD reported that it is possible for a second user to transmit to the repeater during the tail, and that the repeater will transmit the second message immediately. John, VA3MDJ explained that when this occurs, the repeater counts both messages as one continuous transmission and that after three continuous minutes of transmission, will shut off. It was agreed that:

- Elliot, VA3EJF will shorten the tail to about one and a half seconds, and that.
- Users should wait for the tail to expire before transmitting to the repeater, in order to avoid allowing it to time-out on its own.

RAC Insurance:

John, VA3MDJ circulated and read a draft of a letter to be sent to the RAC Directors, the RASC Board and RAC clubs that subscribed to the RAC insurance. The letter was approved unanimously and is attached to these minutes.

New Business

Ontario Bill 118

John, VA3MDJ reported that this proposed legislation, as it is now worded and if not amended, could prohibit the use of amateur hand-held radios in vehicles. He noted that the bill has only just passed first reading, and has not yet gone to committee, and that RAC plans to make a submission on behalf of the amateur community. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the Club should monitor the progress of this legislation, and be prepared to make its own submission at the appropriate time.. The URL for the legislation is:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2099

Financial

The coffee collection yielded \$9.50 and the raffle \$9.00. Receipts from the January 2nd meeting were \$4.25 for the coffee, and \$7.50 for the raffle..

Presentation

Ian, VA3IJF, gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation describing D-Star technology (Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio), a proprietary protocol specification developed by the Japan Amateur Radio League for VHF, UHF and microwave. Currently, compared to conventional analog radios, there are advantages in voice clarity and data transfer reliability. Disadvantages are cost and perhaps propagation distance. D-Star radios and repeaters are offered by ICOM.

Members who would like a copy of this excellent presentation should contact Ian, VA3IJS at igshaw@sympatico.ca

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on February 20th at the Bayview Community Centre. Elliot, VA3EJF, will give an outstanding presentation, based upon some research that he is undoubtedly carrying out at this very moment. The subject will be announced at a later date.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
and
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ