



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Summary of the January 2nd, 2009 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ

Ian VE3IJS

Martin VE3MHC

David VE3VNE

Elliot VA3EJF

Bert VE3ENA

Bernie VE3OTR

Frans VE3VNC

Jim VE3GRT

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting and led a discussion about the repeater and its somewhat disappointing reception range. For more details, see the January 16th minutes, below.

Ian, VE3IJS reported that the December Festive dinner collected \$714 for the 17 dinners and ran a small deficit of \$19.67. It was agreed that we will try to hold the event a week earlier this year. On behalf of the Club, John, VA3MDJ, thanked Ian, and his wife, Jean, for the excellent job they did in organizing the event.

Presentation: Bernie, VE3OTR gave an excellent presentation about Anderson PowerPoles, their applications, advantages, disadvantages and costs.

Financial: The coffee collection was picked up by a member who is now in Mexico, although we're sure he will be returning with the money. There was no raffle.



Minutes of the January 16th, Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Ian CG3IJS
John CF3AAD

David VE3VNE
Elliot VA3EJF
Bert VE3ENA

Bernie VE3OTR
Frans VE3VNC
Doug CG3EES

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Vipi VE3PID
Paul VE3PGF
Martin VE3MHC

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Jost VE3SWI
Jim VE3GRT

Geoff VA3GEG
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Tony VE3VME
Cyril VA3CJE

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3MDJ confirmed that John, CF3AAD had determined that the sensitivity of the “back-up”, or GR300 repeater seems to be about 10dB better than that of the “main” or Mitrek repeater that is now operating at St. Clair.

Over the next several weeks the following steps will be taken to determine whether the Mitrek receiver sensitivity can be improved.

- (1) The Mitrek squelch setting will be checked to make sure that it was set properly since, when the Mitrek squelch is set at a high setting it is designed to have the effect of reducing receiver sensitivity. This is done to accommodate business mobile use in high radio density city environments. Thus, if the setting on the radio control head in the rack was inadvertently left too high it might affect receiver sensitivity.
- (2) The GR300 will be put into operation at the site, and the Mitrek left on standby.. Although the GR300 does not have a keypad test, several members will try to assess whether the receiving range has improved significantly as a result of this substitution. If so then we must pay some further attention to our main receiver. If not the attention somewhat shifts to the antenna and feed line.

- (3) The Mitrek's sensitivity will be assessed on site, with its transmitter turned off, in order to determine whether receiver desensitization is occurring. As members know in FM the capture effect means that strong signals capture the receiver to the exclusion of weak ones. Thus, if there were transmitter power leaking into the receiver, either through leakage inside the cabinet or in the duplexer some desensitization of the receiver might be observed. Checking for receiver sensitivity with the transmitter off will help rule this out as a cause of low receiver sensitivity.
- (4) Depending on the results of the previous steps, an attempt will be made to tune the Mitrek's receiving circuits. (Its frequency has already been checked.)

Doug, CG3EES, confirmed that using his 6-element beam, with 25 watts of power, he could reliably trigger the repeater from Thornhill. It was agreed that our objective should be to be able to do this, from such a distance, with a hand-held, on 5 watts.

Work will be undertaken on this shortly. Any members interested in working on the project please let the exec know.

New Business

International Year of Astronomy:

Doug, CG3EES, reported that because the year 2009 has been designated as "The International Year of Astronomy", Ontario amateurs, with an interest in astronomy, with call sign prefixes VA3 or VE3, can use prefixes CF3 or CG3 respectively, until February 28th.

RAC Insurance

John, VA3MDJ, reported that on page 8 of the latest issue of TCA, the RAC magazine, the RAC President is floating a proposal to increase club costs for liability insurance and for "named insured" certificates. The proposal (copy attached) would cost Nortown \$400 per year, which we can ill-afford.. John, VA3MDJ will draft a letter to RAC to protest against this proposal.

Financial

The coffee collection yielded \$7.09 and the raffle yielded \$8.00.

Presentation

John, VA3MDJ, gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on how to restore scratched plastic and metal surfaces to their original, transparent or glossy surfaces, using progressively smaller grit media.

Members interested in obtaining Micro-Mesh sheets or pads can purchase them at

www.Penblanks.ca

In Particular see: http://www.penblanks.ca/index.php?target=categories&category_id=38

Members wishing a copy of John's PowerPoint presentation may telephone him at 416-545-1630.



Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on February 6th at the Bayview Community Centre. Ian, VE3IJS will give a presentation, based upon some recent research that he will have done. The subject will be announced at a later date.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
and
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ