



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the March 20th, 2009 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Ian VE3IJS
John VA3AAD
David VE3VNE

Vipi VE3PID
Elliot VA3EJF
Bert VE3ENA
Doug VE3EES

Frans VE3VNC
Bernie VE3OTR
Tony VE3XC

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Jost VE3SWI
Cyril VA3CJE
Jim VE3GRT

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Tony VE3VME
Martin VE3MHC

Geoff VA3GEG
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Paul VE3PGF
Jal VE3SOC

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting and welcomed Tony, VE3XC, who was licensed fifty-one years ago, and who used to be a member of the Club in its early days.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3MDJ reported that he and John, VA3AAD had installed the back-up repeater on Wednesday morning March 11th. Testing during that day indicated that it's receive sensitivity seemed to be about the same as the base unit. Accordingly, the base unit was put back into service.

It was agreed that the next steps should be to

- Install the IRLP link.
- Confirm that the antenna radiation pattern is horizontal, by testing with a substitute temporary ground plane antenna.
- Look for a reasonably-priced Motorola pre-amp on eBay.

Doug, VE3EES reported that his Yagi bearing seemed to be about 45 degrees off from Yonge and St. Clair. He and John, VA3MDJ will confirm this by checking Google coordinates. Doug may be receiving a reflection.

[To date, VA3MDJ, VA3CJE, VE3IJS, VA3EJF, VE3EES, VA3AAD and VE3ENA have all reported that they can trigger the repeater from their QTH's. Other members who would like to receive advice or assistance in establishing a connection should not hesitate to contact one of these members.]

RAC Insurance:

John, VA3MDJ indicated that there was nothing new to report in that the issue will be considered by the RAC Board before any action is taken.

Ontario Bill 118

Ian, VE3IJS noted in the latest issue of RAC's TCA, on page 16, that this proposed legislation had gone to committee, and that the following amendment suggested by Peter DeWolf, VE3YYY had been introduced by Peter's MPP, John Yakabuski:

“Apparatus and operators licensed under the Canada Telecommunications Act are exempt.”

Nortown members are urged to email their MPP's to enlist their support for Yakabuski's amendment. You can determine the name and email address of your MPP by going to this following site and clicking on a link that allows you to enter your postal code.

<http://www.ontariotenants.ca/government/mpp.phtml>

Albert Yates Trophy – Don Guthrie, VE3EVZ

Eliot, VA3EJF will get a shield engraved and mounted on the Yates Board, along with a plaque for Don.

Field Day



Another reminder to please mark your calendars now for **June 27th**, so that we can plan for a great turnout. After the next meeting, we will try to determine which members feel that they will be able to participate.

Bernie, VE3OTR suggested that if the Club couldn't gather together enough participants for Field Day, that consideration be given to combining forces with another club. He

stated that the Scarborough ARC used an excellent site and had 12 participants last year. It was agreed that a decision on this should be made in April.

New Business

RAC Licensing Issue

Doug, VE3EES noted that in the latest issue of RAC's TCA on page 10, a Board Task Force had been set up to examine whether RAC should propose to Industry Canada that RAC take over the issuing of licenses and the administration of call signs. IC would continue to be the regulatory and enforcements authority. It was noted that IC's Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) is lightly-staffed, and that IC is unwilling to take on regulatory or policy changes that might cause an increase in ARSC's workload. It was also claimed that IC seems to be unconcerned about the accuracy of the database, and that it has made no effort to verify its accuracy. Doug stated that if IC does accept a proposal of this sort, then some kind of license fee would be inevitable, and that he would be opposed to such a fee.

Considerable debate ensued over the need for a better database, over the value of the service that RAC provides to the entire ham community, and as to whether hams have a responsibility to support RAC.

It was agreed that Doug would monitor this RAC initiative and report to the Club at future meetings.

Donation on behalf of Gordon Everett (SK), VE3IFZ

John, VA3AAD and Doug, VE3EES reported that they had visited Gordon's QTH and had acquired, on behalf of the Club, a Drake TR-4 station, with matching tuner and combination VFO/power supply, along with an antique military radio, a oil-can dummy load, and a collection of small parts and tools. The Club wished to thank Life Member Joan Powell, VE3ZO for arranging this acquisition. The equipment will be sold at local ham-fests and raffled off at future Club meetings for the benefit of the Club.

Future Presentations

The schedule for presentations will be:

April 3, 2009	John VA3AAD (signal generator transceiver tests)
April 17, 2009	John VA3MDJ (building a 70 cm. antenna)
May 1, 2009	Bert VE3ENA (t.b.a)
May 15, 2009	John VA3AAD (t.b.a.)
June 5, 2009	Doug VE3EES and Ian VE3IJS (Hammond Museum)
June 19, 2009	Tony VE3VME (Field Day preparation)

Financial

The meeting raffle yielded \$8.00 and the coffee collection \$6.18.

Presentation

Frans, VE3 VNC gave an interesting presentation of photos that he had taken on a recent trip with Martin VE3MHC to the European ham-fest at Friedrichshafen, in Germany, on the shores of Lake Constance.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on April 3rd at the Bayview Community Centre. John, VA3AAD will bring a Fluke AM/FM signal generator and will demonstrate how it can be used to check the frequency calibration and sensitivity of transceivers. Members who wish to confirm that their hand-helds are calibrated properly can bring them to be tested.



John Shepherd, VA3AAD

and

John Carlisle, VA3MDJ