



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the May 1st, 2009 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Ian VE3IJS
John VA3AAD
Elliot VA3EJF

Jim VE3GRT
Vipi VE3PID
Bert VE3ENA
David VE3VNE

Frans VE3VNC
Bernie VE3OTR
Doug VE3EES
Paul VE3PGF

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Jost VE3SWI
Martin VE3MHC

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Tony VE3VME
Jal VE3SOC

Tony VE3XC
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Cyril VA3CJE
Geoff VA3GEG

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that on Wednesday morning, April 29th, he and John, VA3MDJ had disconnected the Sinclair 4-bay antenna and had attached to it a simple quarter-wave ground plane antenna, mounted on a pole (see our last meeting's minutes for a description), so that the ground plane was just above the Sinclair. Consensus was that the coverage of the new antenna is inferior to that of the Sinclair. It was agreed that the Sinclair should be re-connected permanently, as soon as possible.

John, VA3MDJ passed around a repeater coverage map, printed from a program available at:

<http://www.cplus.org/rmw/rmonline1.html>

The program asks for coordinates, transmitter power, antenna gains and antenna heights above sea level for the receiving and transmitting stations, and draws a local map shaded

according to reception quality. He concluded that map results corresponded roughly to the coverage that we have been experiencing with the Sinclair.

John, VA3AAD reported that field strength measurements recorded on the roof, in the immediate vicinity of the antennas, were difficult to interpret, probably due to high ambient RF interference, different vertical radiation patterns of the two antennas, and reflections from higher nearby buildings.

It was concluded that coverage from the Sinclair is about as good as we can expect to obtain at this site, and that we should now concentrate on getting the IRLP working and making best use of the setup.

John, VA3MDJ and Doug, VE3EES have now determined the coordinate heading between the repeater and Doug's Yagi in Richmond Hill. It appears that because of tall buildings in the line-of-sight between Doug's QTH and the repeater, Doug is probably receiving reflections from an indirect angle.

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.]



Location of VE3NOR Repeater (North is up)

RAC Insurance:

John, VA3MDJ indicated that there was nothing new to report on his earlier letter to RAC.

John, VA3AAD stated that had mailed an application to RAC for renewal of the coverage. *Note: The insurance premium will be \$125 this year, to reflect the fact that eight of our twenty-three Club members are not RAC members.*

Ontario Bill 118

John, VA3MDJ reported that this legislation to restrict use of cell phones and other hand-held devices in moving vehicles has now passed third reading and that regulations are now being developed. He will continue to monitor developments on this issue. More information can be found at:

<http://va3qv.wordpress.com/2009/04/24/bill-c-118-comments-from-a-guest-blogger/>

RAC Licensing Issue

Doug, VE3EES had nothing new to report on this issue.

Albert Yates Trophy – Don Guthrie, VE3EVZ

John, VA3AAD stated that he had not yet tried again to contact Don to determine how best to get him the plaque and to receive thanks from the Club for the work he did on the repeater antenna installation..

Field Day



Another reminder to please mark your calendars now for **June 27th**, so that we can plan for a great turnout. Tony, VE3VME has emailed Club members to firm up participation intentions. **Please Note: Even if you will not be able to attend Field Day, please email Tony at carrollt@istar.ca to confirm this.**

Club Elections

John, VA3AAD, as Immediate Past President, nominated the following members to assume positions on Club executive for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, all of whom had had agreed to stand for election:

John Carlisle, VA3MDJ – President
 Bert Oitzl, VE3ENA – Vice-President
 Frans Huizinga, VE3VNC – Recording Secretary
 Ian Shaw, VE3IJS – Corresponding Secretary
 John Shepherd, VA3AAD – Treasurer.

He also stated that Bernie Roche, VE3OTR had consented to be nominated as Club Auditor, Under our Articles of Incorporation, the Auditor cannot be a member of the Club Executive.

There were no nominations from the floor. All of the above members were elected unanimously to these positions.

Future Presentations

The schedule for presentations will be:

May 15, 2009	John VA3AAD (Radiation Field Strength Theory)
June 5, 2009	Doug VE3EES and Ian VE3IJS (Hammond Museum)
June 19, 2009	Tony VE3VME (Field Day preparation)

New Business

There was no new business

Financial

The meeting raffle yielded \$8.75 and the coffee collection \$11.00. Sale of equipment yielded \$25.00..

Presentation

Bert, VE3ENA gave a detailed explanation of how an SSB exciter circuit works and operated a 100 Watt voice-modulated unit that he had built. The unit included a Collins mechanical filter and demonstrated a level of workmanship that few hams these days seem capable of replicating.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on May 15th at the Bayview Community Centre. John, VA3AAD will subject the group to an exposition on field strength theory, RFI and antenna efficiency.

Hope to see you there.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
and
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ