

Nortown Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the November 7th, 2008 Meeting

Present:

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|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| John VA3MDJ | John VA3AAD | David VE3VNE |
| Ian VE3IJS | Bernie VE3OTR | Frans VE3VNC |
| Martin VE3MHC | Doug VE3EES | Bert VE3ENA |
| Jim VE3GRT | Cyril VA3CJE | |

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

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| Claus VE3PMD | Bill VE3WHW | Geoff VA3GEG |
| Sam VA3SEP | Rej VA3REJ | Tom VE3TEG |
| Jal VE3SOC | Andrew VA3CRA | Ron VA3CCR |
| Jana VE3BFU | Vipi VE3PID | Jost VE3SWI |
| Tony VE3VME | Paul VE3PGF | Elliot VA3EJF |

In John, VA3MDJ opened the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD, reported that he and Elliot, VA3EJF had removed the repeater from its location on October 23rd for bench testing. John had swept the duplexer/cavity system with an FM signal generator and showed a graph (attached to these minutes) of attenuation vs. frequency that confirmed that it was properly adjusted for the 443.650/448.650 frequency pair.

John was also able to compare the sensitivity of the two receivers with that of his hand-held and had determined that one of the two Mitrek units (the one being used as the receiver) was much less sensitive than the other two. A table of these results is also attached to these minutes.

On November 6th, John, VA3AAD, and John, VA3MDJ, switched the units in the repeater, making the more sensitive unit the receiver. They also determined that the transmit frequency of the new transmitter was 443.669 MHZ., which a hand-held tuned to 443.650 ± 0.007 would not have been able to pick up,\. They were able to adjust its frequency to 443.650.

It was planned to reinstall the reconfigured repeater on November 11th.

Note: the repeater was reinstalled on November 11th and a notice sent out to members to test its coverage.

For those who wish to test the system, the repeater transmits on 443.650 MHz, and receives on 448.650 MHz. The PL tone is 103.5 Hz. To test the system, transmit from your hand-held (on 448.650 MHz.) the digits 375, followed by several additional random digits of your choice. If the system is in range, you should hear the words “Keypad Test”, followed by the additional digits that you keyed in.

Financial Report

John, VA3AAD reported that only 14 out of the 19 members who contributed dues last year have attended a meeting or registered this year. An effort will be made to contact these people to determine whether there is anything that the Club should be doing to sustain their interest. . He did say that two members have registered this year who had not contributed dues last year.

Annual Festive Dinner

Ian, VE3IJS, reported that this event will be held on Friday evening, December 12th at 8:00 PM, at the Sierra Grill, in Bayview Plaza, with the usual cash bar before.. Tickets are \$42 per person and will be sold at the next two meetings. Please mark your calendar.

New Business

Propagation

Ian, VE3IJS, remarked that sun spot numbers now seem to be increasing and that we may have passed the minimum in the cycle. Bert, VE3ENA reported that he had experienced recently some unusually good propagation.

Surplus Equipment Disposal-Donation-Raffles

John, VA3MDJ, reminded everyone that the Club inventory of surplus “stuff” has been depleted. Members should bring in small items to give to Jim, VE3GRT. Jim will accumulate them until enough are available for a meeting raffle.

Members are also reminded that if they have surplus equipment, they can either donate it to the Club, or alternatively, Frans, VE3VNC can attempt to sell it at a local hamfest, collecting a 10% commission for the Club, returning 90% to the donor.

Presentation

John, VA3MDJ gave an outstanding presentation describing the Motorola MCX1000, the made-in-Canada, “Best Ham Radio Motorola Ever Made”.



Financial

The coffee collection yielded \$9.50. The equipment raffle yielded \$6.00.

Next Meeting:

Will be held on Friday evening, November 21^h at 8:00 PM, at our usual location, the Bayview Community Centre, just north of Finch. John, VA3AAD will give a demonstration of EZNEC software for modeling antennas. Hope to see you there.

John
VA3AAD
www.eternalchaos.com