

Nortown Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the October 17th, 2008 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ	John VA3AAD	David VE3VNE
Elliot VA3EJF	Bernie VE3OTR	Frans VE3VNC
Martin VE3MHC	Doug VE3EES	Bert VE3ENA
Vipi VE3PID	Jim VE3GRT	Mike Oitzl (with VE3ENA)

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD	Bill VE3WHW	Geoff VA3GEG
Sam VA3SEP	Rej VA3REJ	Tom VE3TEG
Jal VE3SOC	Andrew VA3CRA	Ron VA3CCR
Jana VE3BFU	Cyril VA3CJE	Jost VE3SWI
Tony VE3VME	Paul VE3PGF	Ian VE3IJS

In John, VA3MDJ opened the meeting and welcomed Mike Oitzl, who was attending with his father, Bert, VE3ENA..

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD, reported that Don, VE3EVZ, who is a life member of the Club and a past president, had installed the antenna on the roof at 2 St. Clair East, on Wednesday October 15th. The antenna is attached to a steel mast that is clamped securely to an interior block wall, and extends thirteen feet above the roof of the building. He reported that Don and his assistant Bob had done a high-quality professional installation and had invoiced the Club only for materials (clamps and the mast, \$345).

The antenna, including 40 feet of low-loss LMR600 coax, now has an excellent SWR of 1.5. The building has a back-up power supply which could prove to be invaluable in certain emergency situations.

Over the following two days, John, VA3AAD, and Elliot, VA3EJF worked to connect the repeater, and did succeed in getting it working. However, its range, when in communication with hand-held transceivers, seems to be only about two kilometers.

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 "Keypad Test", followed by the additional digits that you keyed in.

The bottom line is that John, VA3AAD and Elliot, VA3EJF have some more work to do on the radios and duplexer in the repeater, to make sure that they are tuned accurately to our assigned frequencies. The unit (but not the antenna) will have to be removed from the building to make these adjustments.

Financial Report

John, VA3AAD reported that although we now have about \$1300 in the bank, after having written a check for the repeater installation, we still owe Martin, VE3MHC, \$500, leaving only \$800 to fund this year's activities.

John reported that to date, we have collected dues from only 13 members (last year's total was 18). We have collected \$280 in dues plus \$160 in voluntary contributions from eight regular members. We have collected \$310 in voluntary contributions from five life members, for a total collection of \$750 to date. He urged active and out-of-town members who have not yet made contributions to mail checks to the Club at PO Box 91104, RPO Bayview Village, North York, M2K 2Y6.

New Business

Annual Festive Dinner

This will be held on Friday evening, December 12th. Please mark your calendars. Ian, VE3IJS has made the room reservation at last year's locale, at the Sierra Grill, in Bayview Plaza.

Club Membership

John, VA3MDJ, initiated a discussion on how the Club could attract new, and especially, younger members. He indicated that this should become a focus of the Club during this coming year.

Friedrichshafen Hamfest – Germany

Frans, VE3VNC and Martin, VE3MHC reported on their visit last June to this impressive event.

Surplus Equipment Disposal-Donation-Raffles

Jim, VE3GRT reported that the Club inventory of surplus "stuff" has been depleted. Members should bring in small items to give to Jim. He 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

Bert, VE3ENA described his unique collection of mechanical and electronic relays and stepper switches, acquired over years of “junk box” accumulation.

He also described how he was able to repair the power supply for the back-up repeater radios that had been given to the Club by GE Real Estate.



Financial

The coffee collection yielded \$7.05. The equipment raffle yielded \$18.00.

Next Meeting:

Will be held on Friday evening, November 7th at 8:00 PM, at our usual location, the Bayview Community Centre, just north of Finch. John, VA3MDJ, our Motorola radio expert will give a presentation on The Best Ham Radio Motorola Ever Made ... The MCX1000 (Made in Canada). Hope to see you there.

John
VA3AAD
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