

Nortown Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the September 19th, 2008 Meeting

Present:

John VA3AAD	Tony VE3VME	David VE3VNE
Elliot VA3EJF	Ian VE3IJS	Bernie VE3OTR
Martin VE3MHC	Jim VE3GRT	Bert VE3ENA
Frans VE3VNC	Larry Bennett (license candidate)	
Vipi VE3PID		

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

John VA3MDJ	Claus VE3PMD	Bill VE3WHW
Geoff VA3GEG	Doug VE3EES	Sam VA3SEP
Rej VA3REJ	Tom VE3TEG	Jal VE3SOC
Andrew VA3CRA	Ron VA3CCR	Jana VE3BFU
Paul VE3PGF	Cyril VA3CJE	Jost VE3SWI

In John, VA3MDJ's absence, the meeting was chaired by Bert, VE3ENA.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD, reported that the contract with GE Real Estate, for the repeater installation at 2 St. Clair East, has finally been signed. He is now waiting for one insurance document from RAC before installation can commence, but expects to receive it within the next week. He described in some detail the eleven-page comprehensive legal agreement that was signed.

Once the repeater is operative, several Club meeting presentations will be devoted to how best to make optimum use of the system

Elliot, VA3EJF confirmed that the IRLP radio can be set up after the repeater has been installed, if set up can be done from a nearby location (such as VA3AAD's house). Martin, VE3MHC is waiting for a call from an IRLP guru, who is presently out of town, who will carry out this work. Ultimately, it is planned to locate our IRLP node at Martin's house.

New Business

Treasurer's Report

John, VA3AAD presented the Treasurer's report for the 2007/08 fiscal year that ended on July 31st. Copies of this summary were emailed to all Club members on September 13th.

Although the Club has \$1500 in bank cash, it owes almost \$1,000 to one member for the repeater installation. John urged members to be generous with voluntary contributions, because, based on last years income from ongoing sources, the Club will have only a small operating margin to provide for one-time or unforeseen events. John, VA3AAD displayed the Club list of assets, showing which members have custody of each item. This document is attached to these minutes.

Who-Does-What

John, Va3AAD displayed a document that lists the major events and deadlines planned for the coming year, and includes a list of the Club members who have undertaken specific responsibilities. The document tries to show how the work of running the Club is spread around quite widely. It is hoped that at election time, when members are asked to accept nominations for Club offices, it will be recognized that none of the lists of duties are onerous.

Future Presentations

Bert, VE3ENA urged members to volunteer to make presentations at future meetings. Although he, Elliot, VE3EJF; John, VA3AAD; Tony, VE3VME; Frans, VE3VNC; John, VA3MDJ; and Martin, VE3MHC; all plan to contribute, we will have 18 meetings this year and more volunteers will be needed to share their experiences.

Meeting Raffles:

Jim, VE3GRT stated that his cupboard of “junk box items” is bare. He urged members to scour their workshops for “stuff”. If too much is brought in at any one meeting, he will undertake to store it and raffle it out over time.

Out-of-Town Correspondence

John, VA3AAD read from an email that he had received from Joan Powell, VE3ZC (formerly VE3FVO). Joan now lives in the Ottawa area, but used to be an active Nortown member, having won the Albert Yates Award in 1970. She was recently elected as one of eight directors of the QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association), a group that has some 7500 members in 40 countries. Nortown’s congratulations and best wishes go out to Joan.

Elliot, VA3EJF reported that he had had lunch with Alf Matthews, G3UNM, who was a Nortown member back in the 50’s and was visiting the City. . Alf (photos attached) used to work for de Haviland in Downsview before moving from Toronto to live in the UK. His daughter and son-in-law still live in Toronto.

Presentation

John, VA3AAD gave a demonstration of a \$300 oscilloscope, ordered over the Internet from China, that was delivered in four days, and that connects to the USB port of a laptop. This versatile 2-channel device is powered by the computer, has a 100 MHz bandwidth and comes complete with software, a manual, a connecting cable and two probes. It can perform more than 20 different types of measurements, as well as carry out FFT (Fast Fourier Transform) analyses on periodic wave forms. Images can be saved to a file or printed. Do a Google on “Hantek DSO 2250”.

Financial

The raffle yielded \$12,00 and the coffee collection \$7.08.

Next Meeting

Will be held at the same location, at 8:00 PM on Friday, October 3rd. Based upon the theory that we, as hams, should try to know what “the enemy” is up to, Elliot, VA3EJF has prepared an interesting presentation about Skype, the 5-year-old phenomenon that also facilitates world-wide communication. Don’t miss it.

73’s,
John, VA3AAD
www.eternalchaos.com