



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the April 1st, 2011 Meeting

Present:

Bert VE3ENA
John VA3AAD
David VE3VNE

Ian VE3IJS
Doug VE3EES
Frans VE3VNC

Elliot VA3EJF
Tom VE3BKA
Jeff, VE3RTV

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Jost VE3SWI
Cyril VA3CJE
Jal VE3SOC
Jim VE3GRT

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Tony VE3VME
Geoff VA3GEG
Vipi VE3PID
Bernie VE3OTR

Tony VE3XC
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Paul VE3PGF
Vince VE3ELB
John VA3MDJ

Old Business

Repeater

No change. Elliot, VA3EJF is continuing to work on the Linux IRLP IP address issue

The VE3MHC (SK) 1926 Antique Bremer-Tulley Radio

No change. Tom, VE3BKA, and Elliot, VA3EJF will try to make another effort to repair this radio, so that it can be sold in working order.

MISSING – The Club’s Kenwood 6-meter T-550 Radio

No change. Through copies of these minutes. Andrew, VA3CRA, and Tom, VE3TEG are asked to search their equipment shelves for the unit. It was last seen at a Field Day, several Years ago. Elliot, VA3EJF will follow up with them.

Field Day Lightning Arrestors

No change. John, VA3AAD has found a source for 10 foot 5/8” copper-coated steel ground rods, but they have to be ordered and are \$45 each. Either galvanized rods or copper pipe will be used instead.

New Business

Upcoming Presentations

The schedule for presentations is:

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| April 18 | John, VA3AAD |
| May 6 | Frans, VE3VNC |
| May 20 | Doug, VE3EES |
| June 3 | Ian, VE3IJS |
| June 17 | Tony, VE3VME - Field Day Preparation, |

Durham Region HamFest

Frans, VE3VNC announced that this excellent hamfest will be held on April 16th and that if any members have equipment that they would like to sell, that they can bring it to his display table at the show.

A link to the hamfest site is at:

<http://drhamfest.tripod.com/>

Misc. Announcements:

Guest Jeff Golde, VE3RTV announced that had had just visited Jal, VE3SOC, who was (temporarily) not well enough to attend the meeting, and who had sent his regrets to the Club. Jeff also announced that he has a friend who wishes to sell a 5-foot metal lathe in excellent condition, Members who may be interested can contact Jeff at jeffrey_golde@hotmail.com

Doug, VE3EES stated that he now has a device that can convert VHS tapes to DVD and that if members have any irreplaceable memorabilia on VHS he would be happy to make the device available.

Financial

The coffee collection yielded \$8.06. In Jim, VE3GRT's absence, there was no raffle.

Presentation

Geoff, VE3RTV showed an unforgettable 2-hour documentary entitled "Empire of the Air – The Men Who Made Radio". This outstanding film traced the conflicted, often tragic and entangled lives of Marconi, Fessenden, de Forest, Armstrong and Sarnoff.

A synopsis is:

“Adapted from Tom Lewis' best-selling book, this documentary by premier historic filmmaker Ken Burns examines the legendary figures who took the small-scale hobby of radio and turned it into a major industry -- not to mention a revolutionary force for social change. Empire of the Air recreates the compelling drama through the stories of three important men: Edwin Howard Armstrong, the inventor of the FM system and of AM receivers practical for widespread use; Lee

de Forest, the eccentric who *almost* got patents on a series of groundbreaking new technologies and who also championed the cultural uses of broadcasting; and David Sarnoff, the Russian immigrant who would create NBC and become president of RCA. Narrated by Jason Robards, this inside look at the science, the squabbles, and the entrepreneurial genius behind the modern communications age features interviews, archival footage, insightful commentary, and Ken Burns' characteristic and deeply felt emotional drama.” ~ Sarah Welsh, Rovi

For those of you who missed the meeting, the DVD can be purchased from PBS at:

<http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=1402895>

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 15th.

John, VA3AAD will again try our collective patience with another nail-biting presentation – a cliff-hanger only because things usually don't go as planned. This time, he'll give a brief talk on coax theory and then try to send a pulse through a long length of coax, observing the timing and shape of the return signal on an oscilloscope with its display projected on a screen. If this type of presentation bores you, it's OK to come only for the meeting and coffee chat and leave before the presentation. You'll be in good company.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
And Ian, VE3IJS