



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the January 7th, 2011 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
John VA3AAD
Tom VE3BKA

Tony VE3VME
Doug VE3EES
Ian VE3IJS

Bert VE3ENA
Elliot VA3EJF

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Jost VE3SWI
Paul VE3PGF
Vince VE3ELB
Frans VE3VNC

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Vipi VE3PID
Cyril VA3CJE
Jim VE3GRT
Jal VE3SOC

Tony VE3XC
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Bernie VE3OTR
Geoff VA3GEG
David VE3VNE

Old Business

Repeater

Elliot, VA3EJF and Tom, VE3TEG have tried unsuccessfully to resolve the Linux IRLP IP address issue but will continue to work on it.

Annual Festive Dinner

All agreed that the December 3rd dinner was a great success and thanked Ian, VE3IJS unanimously for having arranged it. Doug, VE3EES reported that only few of those present did not draw a door prize. An effort will be made next year to purchase enough prizes for each couple and for each single attendee.

Sale of Surplus Equipment

So far, no Club members have listed any radio items that perhaps are worth more than \$40 or \$50. Lists of these can be provided to the Club Secretary, John, VA3AAD, at john@eternalchaos.com. He will distribute these lists along with the meeting minutes, so that they can be circulated to the wider community receiving the minutes. Along with an accurate description of each item, the list should show an asking price and include the

telephone number of the seller. If they wish, members can display such items at Club meetings.

The VE3MHC (SK) 1926 Antique Bremer-Tulley Radio

Tom, VE3BKA, and Elliot, VA3EJF will try to make another effort to repair this radio, so that it can be sold in working order.

Geoff, VA3GEG's Yaesu FT101E Radio

It was noted that this radio did not elicit any interest at recent hamfests at its suggested price of \$160, but that here was one offer of \$125. It was suggested that if a similar offer arises at future hamfests, it should be accepted.

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

Elliot, VA3EJ reported that he had made no progress in locating this radio. Recipients of these minutes are asked again to scour their shacks and their memories and advise Elliot if they have it. 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.

New Business

Club Insurance

John VA3AAD reported that he has renewed the Club's liability insurance with RAC for the calendar year 2011, although he has not yet received an insurance certificate. Because RAC had to find a new carrier, the premium has been increased from \$136/year to \$229/year (\$175 + \$1/member + \$11/non-RAC member + GST). John, VA3MDJ pointed out that a few details about the new insurance coverage are in the latest issue of TCA. John, VA3AAD stated that equipment loss/damage insurance was also available, for \$1 per \$100, but that the Club had declined this coverage.

Rogers "Rocket" Internet Access

John, VA3AAD, noted that Rogers now offers their USB Internet access stick for \$150 plus \$10 for 100MB of pay-as-you-go downloads, good for 30 days, with no other obligations or charges. He suggested that the Club purchase one, for use at meetings, for member presentations. After some discussion, Elliot, VA3EJF stated that it would be simpler if the Club used his Blackberry for the three or four times a year that it might be needed. It was agreed that this would be a preferable option.

Financial

Bert, VE3ENA, reviewed the Club's Income/Expense statement, comparing the 2009/2010 fiscal year that ended on July 31, 2010, with the results for the partial year that just ended on December 31, 2010, along with a forecast for the current fiscal year that will end on July 31, 2011. It is estimated that we will have a cash position of about \$2700 by next July. A PDF copy of this statement is attached.

Regretfully, due to Jim, VE3GRT's absence, there was no raffle. The coffee collection yielded \$7.60.

Presentation

Bert, VE3ENA's excellent presentation was about Grid Dip Meters, and showed how they could be used on both active and passive LC circuits to determine resonance frequency. He demonstrated how, for a passive circuit, given two of the three parameters (f, L and C) it is possible to calculate the third. He also showed a typical circuit diagram, describing how a grid dip meter works.

Bert also described in some detail, a purported RFI problem about which he had been accused unjustly, quite a few years ago. Internet propriety and privacy considerations inhibit us from providing details in these minutes. Suffice it to say that those of you who missed his presentation will forever regret not having been at this meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, January 21st. Tom, VE3BKA is now working on his presentation (subject TBA), which, he regrets, will be a tough act to follow. Nevertheless, Tom has a lot of expertise to share, and we're certain that you'll not want to miss this. Hope to see you there.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
Ian Shaw, VE3IJS