



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the May 6th, 2011 Meeting

Present:

Bert VE3ENA	Elliot VA3EJF	John VA3AAD
Doug VE3EES	Tom VE3BKA	Frans VE3VNC
David VE3VNE	Michael Oitzl (guest)	

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD	Bill VE3WHW	Tony VE3XC
Sam VA3SEP	Rej VA3REJ	Tom VE3TEG
Andrew VA3CRA	Ron VA3CCR	Jana VE3BFU
Jost VE3SWI	Tony VE3VME	Paul VE3PGF
Cyril VA3CJE	Geoff VA3GEG	Vince VE3ELB
Jal VE3SOC	Vipi VE3PID	John VA3MDJ
Jeff VE3RTV	Ian VE3IJS	Bernie VE3OTR

In Ian, VE3IJS's absence, Bert, VE3ENA chaired the meeting.

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. It was last seen at a field day. Through copies of these minutes, Jal, VE3SOC is asked to search his equipment shelf for the unit. It was last seen at a Field Day, several Years ago. Elliot, VA3EJF will follow up with Jal.

Field Day: Ground Rods and Lightning Arrestors

Bert, VE3 ENA has sharpened the ends of the last two ground rods and has put together a sling to facilitate removal from the ground. The Club now has four completed assemblies, one for each station at field day. These should give excellent protection against antenna static build-up, but will not protect against a direct strike.

Club Elections:

No change. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Friday, May 20th. The existing members of the executive have agreed to stand for re-election to second terms (Club by-laws prohibit members from occupying the same offices for more than two years in a row). The proposed slate of officers consists of:

President	Ian, VE3IJS
Vice-President	John, VA3MDJ
Treasurer	Bert, VE3ENA
Recording Secretary	John, VA3AAD
Corresponding Secretary	Elliot, VA3EJF

In addition, Tony, VE3VME has agreed to stand for re-election for a second term to the non-executive position of Auditor.

Nominations for any of these positions will be accepted by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee (the Immediate Past-President), John, VA3MDJ, by email at drjcarlisle@rogers.com, verbally or in writing at or before the May 20th meeting. Nominees must be Club members in good standing and must have agreed to stand for election, which will be by secret ballot.

New Business

Sale of Equipment

Frans, VE3VNC reported that he had sold an external Drake VFO at the Pickering hamfest for \$140. The funds were given to the Club Treasurer, Bert, VE3ENA.

Upcoming Presentations

The schedule for presentations is:

May 20	Doug, VE3EES
June 3	Ian, VE3IJS
June 17	Tony, VE3VME - Field Day Preparation,

General Announcements

Elliot, VA3EF reported a burglary at his QTH in which a wooden side door had been smashed in. Although other valuables had been taken, no radio equipment was missing. He reported, however, that a \$50 steel channel called "Safe Door", available at Home Depot, would have prevented this break-in.

Field Day is June 25/26 Weekend

Elliot, VA3EJF reported that five members have now committed to Field Day but that quite a few more will be needed if we are going to be able to use our towers to put up any effective antennas. Please email Tony, VE3VME at carrollt@istar.ca to confirm your participation.

Financial

The coffee collection yielded \$7.58. In Jim, VE3GRT's absence, there was no raffle.

Presentation

Frans, VE3VNC gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation and demonstrated a Geiger Counter that he had built from scrounged parts some 40 years ago. (A pdf copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes). The battery-operated device fits inside a short vacuum cleaner nozzle and shows an incredible level of careful workmanship that few members realized that he was ever capable of performing. He also activated a military-surplus Geiger counter so that members could listen through headphones to radioactivity emitted by a dial from a WWII-era radio. Bravo!

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Friday, May 20th.

Doug, VE3EES is now pouring through his old chemistry texts to prepare for our next meeting's presentation about how diodes and transistors actually work at the atomic level. This promises to be an interesting exploration that none of us will want to miss.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD