



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the January 6th, 2012 Meeting

Present:

Ian VE3IJS
John VA3MDJ
Frans VE3VNC

Bert VE3ENA
Jim, VE3GRT

John VA3AAD
Tom VE3BKA

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Tony VE3VME
Geoff VE3GEG
Elliot VA3EJF

Vipi VE3PID
David VE3VNE
Bernie VE3OTR

Doug VE3EES
Vince, VE3ELB

Club President, Ian, VE3IJS chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

Elliot, VA3EJF has not yet re-installed the IRLP software to try to resolve an issue about the IRLP IP address. It was agreed that if we are ever going to get more use out of our repeater, that this work must be carried out and that Elliot is unanimously urged to attend to it.

Ian, VE3IJS reported that he had written to the G.E. leasing representative during December to ask for a reduction in the suggested fee, but had not yet received a reply.

The VE3MHC (SK) 1926 Antique Bremer-Tulley Radio

Bert reported that he did not hear from Doug, VE3EES regarding replacement tube availability and stated that he is anxious to dispose of the radio. John, VA3AAD suggested that any old tubes are also likely to be gassy and moved that Bert phone Jeff, VE3RTF to confirm that he can have the set. There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.

Upcoming Presentations

The schedule for presentations is:

January 20, 2012

Elliot, VA3EJF - subject tba.

February 3, 2012

John, VA3AAD - mixer demo and theory

February 17, 2012	Doug, VE3EES – subject tba
March 2, 2012	Frans, VE3VNC, subject tba.
March 16, 2012 (tent.)	Bernie, VE3OTR – York Region Emergency Response.
April 6, 2012	Bert, VE3ENA – subject tba
April 20, 2012`	<i>Need a volunteer</i>
May 4, 2012	John, VA3MDJ – subject tba
May 18, 2012	John, VA3AAD – subject tba
June 1, 2012	<i>Need a volunteer</i>
June 15, 2012	Tony, VE3VME – Field day (June 23, 24) Preparations

Volunteers are still needed for the April 20th June 1st meetings.

Remember that there is a loose-leaf book containing articles from recent QST “Hands-on-Radio” or “Hints and Kinks” columns, now kept in the Club meeting cupboard for use by members wishing to develop presentations. These need not be complicated or lengthy, and can be on any radio-related topic. ARRL members (only) can access all except the most recent issues at:

<http://www.arrl.org/experiments-1-through-10>

Annual Festive Dinner

It was agreed that the annual festive dinner was a tremendous success, with 16 attendees, a much-improved venue and first-class food. Ian, VE3IJS was heartily congratulated on having organized the event.

Ian reported, however, that we had gone 41% over budget. We had charged \$40 per person, but the main course had cost \$46.48 per person and door prizes an additional \$2.21 per person. More distressingly, on top of this, because many of us were asleep at the switch, enjoying the pre-seasonal ambiance and conversation while the dessert cart rolled in, we all indulged in an extra that was originally intended to have been optional, at each individual’s expense. This added another \$146.20 to the bill, equivalent to \$9.14 per person. The net result was a whopping deficit of \$265.24, or \$16.58 per person..

Although no one specifically expressed the thought, there was perhaps some mild regret at the understandable distress that anyone who did not attend must now be feeling about this redistribution of Club assets. It was agreed, however, that even though the food, and especially the desserts, were excellent, we should not allow this to happen again.

Club P.A. System for Sale

John, VA3AAD reported that Vipi, VE3PID had picked up the Club’s P.A. system and that he had passed on Vipi’s \$50 payment to Bert, VE3ENA, the Club Treasurer.

John reported that Vipi had later stated that the amplifier was inoperable, but that since Vipi had been the last to use it, he should attempt to check it out and repair it.

Sunday Morning Net

John, VA3AAD confirmed that the frequency is 28.550 MHz.

New Business

Club Finances

John, VA3AAD presented the attached PowerPoint summary of Club income and expenses for the 2011-2012 club fiscal year.

The column on the right shows a projection for the entire 2011-2012 fiscal year. The column immediately to the left of it shows what we have actually received and spent to the end of 2011. The third line on page 3 shows that we will probably run a deficit of \$333 for the year. Major reasons for this are:

- The \$265 festive dinner deficit.
- The projected \$150 repeater rent increase.
- A decline in sales of equipment donated to the Club.
- Purchase, for \$79, of 50 blank checks (payable instead of a monthly bank account fee).

After some discussion, it was agreed that:

- We will try to break even on next year's festive dinner.
- We will consider extracting a \$20 fee from Field Day participants.

Financial

The coffee collection yielded \$10.05 and the raffle \$8.00.

Presentation

Tom, VE3BKA gave an outstanding PowerPoint presentation on baluns and ununs (a PDF file is attached) that will serve as a valuable reference on this subject. He also brought in many examples of units that he had constructed.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 20^h. Elliot, VA3EJF is no doubt working furiously to prepare his presentation, the subject of which has yet to be announced. Let's hope that it includes a progress report on our Linux IRLP software problem. If so we may all no doubt wish to nominate him for an Albert Yates award.

John, VA3AAD

Ian, VE3IJS