



Nortown Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the May 18th, 2012 Meeting

Present:

Bert VE3ENA
Ron VA3GRE
John VA3MDJ

John VA3AAD
Frans VE3VNC

Vince, VE3ELB
Geoff VE3GEG

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Tony VE3VME
Doug VE3EES
Vipi VE3PID

David VE3VNE
Tom, VE3BKA
Elliot VA3EJF

Ian VE3IJS
Jim, VE3GRT

In VE3IJS's absence, Club Vice-president, John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

Based upon tests with the back-up repeater transmitting from Vince, VE3EB's QTH just North of St. Clair and Dufferin, it was agreed that:

- (1) John, VA3AAD will purchase a vertical monoband 70 cm. base station antenna, such as the NCG/Comet Model CA-712-EF. Estimated cost < \$170.
- (2) At the repeater's location at 2 St. Clair East, we will replace the existing Sinclair 4-bay dipole antenna with the new Comet antenna. Before installing the Comet we will measure the repeater's power output at the antenna.
- (3) We will disassemble the Sinclair, at least partially, looking for evidence of corroded connectors.
- (4) Vince, VE3ELB will link one of his existing EchoLink nodes to the repeater and attribute to it the VE3NOR call sign. In this way, members, and other hams, whose QTH's are not close enough to access the repeater, will be able to do so over the Internet.
- (5) John, VA3MDJ will put together a 70 cm. Motorola transceiver for use at Vince, VE3ELB's QTH, to be used for the EchoLink connection.

In previous years. the Club has had presentations on EchoLink. The informative URL for it, also with free software downloads, is at:

<http://www.echolink.org/>

Club members are encouraged to download this software, register their call signs with EchoLink, and learn how to make use of this operating mode.. Eventually, we'll be able to hold our Sunday morning Net on our 70 cm. frequency pair.

Attached are photos of the 2 St. Clair East repeater location, taken both from ground level and from the roof-top, in various directions. Note that at least four other antennas are located on this same roof-top, so our location shouldn't be all that bad.

No change re: Elliot, VA3EJF's new IRLP software. He has resolved to try again to get this to work.

Club Elections

No further nominations having been received, the following members were elected to the Club executive for the 2012-2013 fiscal year:

Treasurer	Tom Dean
Corresponding Secretary (+ minutes)	John Shepherd
Secretary	Elliot Fraser
Vice-President	Bert Oitzl
President	John Carlisle

The following positions are non-executive but are again listed here in recognition to their valuable contributions to Club activities:

Auditor and Field Day Inspirator	Tony Carroll
Chief Hamfest Equipment Value Realizer	Frans Huizinga
Raffle Guru and Club Historian	Jim Flowers

Fox Hunt

In view of Doug, VE3EES's absence and the relatively low turnout, it was not felt practical to try to establish a date for the fox hunt through a show of hands. Suggested dates had been the weeks of Monday July 23 to Thursday July 26 or Monday August 20 to Friday August 24.

Instead, members who are interested are asked to email Doug VE3EES at:

douglas.lane@acn.net

before our next meeting on June 1st, indicating YES or NO for EACH of the above nine dates. Doug will establish a date based upon a majority vote.

We'll need at least four teams of two persons in each team. It would be helpful if you could indicate whether you would be bringing along an non-club-member as a member of your team, as this would reduce the number of Club members required for the event.

Upcoming Presentations

The schedule for presentations is:

June 1, 2012	Jim. VE3GRT – audio tape.
June 15, 2012	Tony, VE3VME – Field day (June 23, 24) preparations
Sept. 21, 2012	John, VA3AAD – RF cavity resonators..
October 5, 2012	Either Elliot, VA3EJF or Ian, VE3IJS.

Volunteers will be needed for the next season's meetings. Please remember that we'll need two presentations a year from each active member..

VA3MDJ has again received additional back issues of QST and will be adding pages to the loose-leaf book [our Presentation Binder] that is now kept in the Club meeting cupboard for use by members planning 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>.

Members are requested to bring in and give to John, VA3MDJ old copies of QST and Radcom so that he cut out and file useful articles in the binder.

Club Future

There was no further discussion about the Club's future. A summary of the to-do" items, arising out of the two last meetings, is:

- (1) Next year's executive will explore the possibility of having other clubs come under our corporate and liability insurance umbrella, our repeater pair and our excellent Field Day location. A start might be to invite another Club to one of our meetings.
- (2) We will continue to try to connect IRLP to the repeater and will keep our eyes open for a better location (although, with four other antennas on the same roof-top, our location may not be all that bad.). If EchoLink works out, relocation may also be unnecessary.
- (3) In October, Tom, VE3BKA, the incoming Club Treasurer will close out the Club mail box which has been prepaid until January 2013.. Before doing this:
 - a. Elliot, VA3EJF will modify the Club web site ;
 - i. to require applicants for WAVE and WACAN awards to email scanned QSL cards in PDF format.
 - ii. to change the Club address to 66 Heath St. East, M4T 1S3
 - iii. to show that the repeater PLL tone is 103,5 Hz.
 - b. John, VA3AAD (in the treasurer's absence) will advise the bank that we will no longer need to have monthly bank statements mailed.
 - c. John, VA3AAD will change the Club's snail-mail address, in the RAC Club listings, to our legal corporate address. (RAC has now been notified of this.)
- (4) Next year's executive will contact RAC to determine whether that organization would take over the WACAN and WAVE awards. Based upon RAC's response, a decision will be made as to whether to discontinue these awards.
- (5) Collectively, we're holding our breath, hoping that th City doesn't start to charge us for the meeting room in the Fall.

HF Transceiver Wanted

(no change) John, VA3MDJ announced that his old FT450 transceiver has died and that he is still looking for a suitable, used replacement. If any member has a remotely comparable unit for sale, please email him at drjcarlisle@rogers.com.

New Business

Field Day

Will be the weekend of June 23, 24, with the final details settled at the June 15th meeting.

Members who have not confirmed participation to Tony, VE3VME are asked to do so immediately, to:

carroll@istar.ca

Bring your tent or SUV to sleep in, and snack food to subsist on during the day (most folks take a break and go out in the evening to a decent restaurant – same for breakfast the next morning) Location is about an hour North of Toronto, this side of Barrie. We get there before 10:00 AM Saturday and have everything packed up by 3:00 PM on the Sunday. Everyone had a great time last year.

Finances

The raffle yielded \$4.00 and the coffee collection \$9.00. Treasurer, Bert, VE3ENA, who is leaving shortly to Europe for the summer, turned over the books to John, VA3AAD, the Club Secretary,.

Presentation

John, VA3AAD, finally gave his presentation on how RF mixers work He passed the output from a demo mixer through a spectrum analyzer and projected the result onto a screen. He was not at all daunted by *sub voce* mutterings from the group that the explanation involved too much math. On the other hand, he was rather proud that his three “ugly construction” demos actually did work. The presentation is attached, in PDF format, and shows the three demo circuits.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, June 1st. For the presentation, Jim, VE3GRT will bring an audio recording about early radio. Sounds interesting. You won't want to miss it.

Remember to email Doug, VE3EES about the fox hunt and Tony, VE3VME about Field Day.

John, VA3AAD