



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the May 4th, 2012 Meeting

Present:

Bert VE3ENA
Doug VE3EES
Ron VA3GRE
Vipi VE3PID

John VA3AAD
Tom, VE3BKA
Frans VE3VNC
Elliot VA3EJF

Ian VE3IJS
Jim, VE3GRT
Geoff VE3GEG
John VA3MDJ

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Tony VE3VME

Vince, VE3ELB

David VE3VNE

Club President, Ian, VE3IJS chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

No change. Elliot, VA3EJF has new IRLP software and has resolved to try again to get it to work.

(post meeting note) At the May 18th meeting, we'll discuss how best to confirm that our Sinclair UHF antenna is working optimally.

Nortown Web Site

Elliot, VA3EJF has updated the web site and demonstrated this to the group.

Club Elections

Immediate Past President, John.VA3MDJ proposed the following slate of members for next year's executive:

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

The club election will be held at the next meeting, on May 18th. Nominations for any of these positions will be accepted by John, VA3MDJ any time prior to that meeting, with the understanding that nominees have agreed to stand for election.

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

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

Fox Hunt

Doug, VE3EES had volunteered to set up a fox hunt this summer and be the fox. Based upon a show of hands, about half of those present indicated that they could be interested in participating on a mid-week date, during daylight, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM,

Suggested dates the weeks of Monday July 23 to Thursday July 26 or Monday August 20 to Friday August 24. At the May 18th meeting, we'll try to pick one date and try to determine whether we can put together at least four two-person teams.

Upcoming Presentations

The schedule for presentations is:

May 18, 2012	John, VA3AAD – RF mixers.
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, VA3EJFor Ian, VE3IJS.

Volunteers will be needed for the next season's meetings..

VA3MDJ has 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

With 12 members present, there was a decisive discussion relevant to the following issues:

- **Club Survival:** We all want the Club to continue to exist. We are incorporated whereas Scarboro and CenTor clubs are not. We "own" a repeater pair. Next year's executive will explore the possibility of having other clubs come under our liability insurance umbrella.
- **Number of Meetings:** We will continue with two meetings a month (i.e., 17 or 18 meetings a year).
- **Meeting Day:** We will continue with Fridays. Note that Scarboro meets on Mondays and CenTor on Tuesdays.

- **Field Day;** Field Day is an essential Club activity and the major reason for having liability insurance. An association with other clubs could increase participation and spread the \$570 per year cost..
- **Repeater:** IRLP might increase Club visibility and might attract more members, but it can be used only by one person at a time. We should keep the frequency pair in operation and try to find a better location.
- **WACAN and WAVE Awards** There was no consensus on this but it was agreed that:
 - The web site will require applicants to email scanned QSL cards in PDF format. This way we could cancel the post office box, saving \$160 per year. The Treasurer will advise the bank that we will download statements instead of having them mailed to the post office box.
 - Next year's executive will contact RAC to determine whether that organization would take over the awards. Based upon this, a decision would be made as to whether to cancel them.
- **Club Web Site:** It's important that the web site be kept up-to-date.
- **Meeting Location:** If the City starts to charge us this fall, we will address the issue at that time.
- **Sunday Morning Net:** This is valuable exposure for the Club and will be continued. It's a means of attracting new members.
- **Increasing Club Membership:** The ideas of contacting Scouts and setting up tables at hamfests were not felt to be productive. Focus will be on initiating contacts with other area clubs, to start with, perhaps some joint meetings.
- **Presentations:** These are a core meeting activity. Members who are capable of making presentations should expect to prepare two a year.

New Business

Sale of Surplus Equipment

Frans, VE3ENA announced that he had completed the sale of VE7DNN's equipment, (see the Feb. 3rd minutes) realizing a total of \$1,295, out of which the Club retained 10%, or \$129.50. Doug, VE3EES had already turned over \$800 to the Club for his IC7000 purchase, so Frans handed Treasurer, Bert, VE3ENA the remaining difference of \$495. Accordingly, Bert wrote a check to VE7DNN for \$1,295 less 10%, or \$1,165.50.

Frans also sold a power supply belonging to Geoff, VE3GEG for \$50. He turned over \$45 to Geoff and \$5 to the Club. He had also a Heathkit Signal Generator from last year's garage sale, for \$15, which he turned over to the Club.

HF Transceiver Wanted

John, VA3MDJ announced that his old FT450 transceiver has died and that he is looking for a suitable, used replacement. If any member has a remotely comparable unit for sale, please email him at drjcarlisle@rogers.com.

Finances

The raffle yielded \$9.00 and the coffee collection \$11.75. Bert, VE3ENA donated a 12-cup coffee maker to the Club, to replace last week's newer model that had plugged up, supposedly irremediably.

Presentation

In view of the advancing hour, Ian, VE3IJS gave a short but excellent presentation on how to set up an in-house repeater to extend the range of a conventional internet wireless modem/router. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, May 18th. John, VA3AAD will attempt to do a demonstration on how RF mixers actually work when they "multiply" two frequencies to produce their sums and differences. He has built three "ugly construction" examples and is hoping that at least one of them will work. To demonstrate this he will bring in two signal generators and a spectrum analyzer. You won't want to miss this nail-biting event, even if you're not at all curious as to how mixers work.

John, VA3AAD
Ian VE3IJS