



## Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting

### Present:

John VA3MDJ  
Bert VE3ENA  
Doug VE3EES  
Ian VE3IJS

Frans VE3VNC  
Tom VE3BKA  
John VA3AAD

Jim VE3GRT  
Ron VA3GRE  
Vince VE3ELB

### Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Geoff VE3GEG  
Tony VE3VME

Elliot VA3EJF  
Paul, VA3/VE3PGF

Vipi VE3PID  
David VE3VNE

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

## Old Business

### Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that he and Elliot, VA3EJF had been unsuccessful in configuring the Mitrek repeater, but that Vince, VE3ELB was now working on rebuilding it, using the M120 radios.

Vince reported that he had built a new wiring harness to connect the M120 radios to the 200B controller and that he had replaced all the other wiring in the cabinet. Also, he and John, VA3MDJ had just checked the M120 transmitter to ensure that it had maximum power. Hopefully, all that remains to be done is to attach a high-velocity fan to the transmitter's heat sink.

Depending upon results of further testing, it is hoped that the new configuration will be installed in the 2 St. Clair East chiller room very shortly.

**Monday 9:00 PM UHF Net.**

No change. We will use Vince's repeater for the Monday night net – 443.400 (+5), PL 136.3. Members out of UHF range should join the Net over Echolink. The sound quality is excellent.

**Fox Hunt**

A reminder: The Fox Hunt will be held on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars. The Fox, Doug, VE3EES, will provide more logistical details at the next meeting. Six members - VA3AAD, VE3IJS, VE3ENA, VA3MDJ, VE3VNC and VA3EJF have already agreed to participate.

John, VA3MDJ made available 1/8" copper welding rods that could be used to make a Fox Hunt Yagi. Construction details are attached to these minutes along with an excellent Radcom article on Fox Hunt technique. Bert, VE3ENA will bring the Club's MFJ-259 UHF VSWR tester to the next meeting, for those who wish to test their antennas. The tester has PL-259 and type N connectors. Members should bring their own BNC or SMA adapters, John will also bring additional welding rods to the next meeting for anyone else who might like to join the group.

At the next meeting, Doug, VE3EES will attempt to pair-up participants.

Here is an URL with instructions for building 70cm Fox Hunt antennas:

<http://www.nr6ca.org/70cmyagi.html>

**Future Presentations**

April 19	Ian, VE3IJS	Subject t.b.a.
May 3	John, VA3MDJ	Subject t.b.a.
May 17	Tony, VE3VME and Elliot, VA3EJF	Field day preparation
June 7	John, VA3AAD	Subject t.b.a.

There will be no meeting on June 21, the day before the field day weekend.

**Skywide ARC**

No change. Nortown and Skywide officers intend to explore areas of common interest. Vince, VE3ELB reported that one of the Skywide technical members was recently to have tried to contact him.

### **Albert Yates Award**

No change. It was agreed that an election for the award would be held at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, at which date elections for Club executive will also be held. There will be no prior nomination process – members present at that meeting will simply write a nominee’s name on a paper ballot and the award winner will be determined by a majority.

### **New Business**

#### **Member’s Surplus Equipment**

Frans, VE3VNC stated that Vipi, VE3PID would be selling some of his surplus equipment and that Frans would be determining what he could sell at hamfests (the Club gets 10% commission on these sales). Frans reminded members that he can only sell certain saleable types of equipment, and that anything that he cannot handle should probably be donated to the Club’s annual garage sale.

#### **Hamfests**

There was a general consensus bemoaning the lack of good equipment available at these events. Frans, VE3VNC stated that at last summer’s “Junk in the Trunk” Newmarket hamfest, a lot of interesting material was available.

#### **Financial**

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$6.25 and the raffle \$9.00..

#### **Presentation**

Frans, VE3VNC displayed remarkable a ten-tube 80-m communications receiver, that used Phillips parts, that he had designed and built before he moved to Canada, while he was working for that company in Holland. The workmanship and layout were exquisite.

He distributed photocopies of his circuit diagram but unfortunately these are too large to attach to these minutes

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, April 19<sup>h</sup> at the Bayview Community Centre. Ian, VE3IJS, our digital guru, is on tap for that presentation.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD  
and  
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ