



## Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 Meeting

### Present:

|                                    |                      |              |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| John VA3MDJ                        | Ian VE3IJS           | John VA3AAD  |
| Bert VE3ENA                        | David VE3VNE         | Tom VE3BKA   |
| Ron VA3GRE                         | Elliot VA3EJF        | Frans VE3VNC |
| Doug VE3EES                        | Jeff, VA3RTV (guest) |              |
| Tony, no call, accompanying VA3RTV |                      |              |

### Recent member-attendees who were absent:

|              |                  |             |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| Geoff VE3GEG | Vince VE3ELB     | Vipi VE3PID |
| Tony VE3VME  | Paul, VA3/VE3PGF | Jim VE3GRT  |

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting, and welcomed the two guests.

### Old Business

#### Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that the back-up repeater is now in place at Yonge and St. Clair, using a loaner 30A power supply and with a high-speed fan attached to the transmitter's cooling fins.

He stated that the Monday January 28<sup>th</sup> UHF net showed no audible evidence of reduced transmit power, although one participant did notice a slight S-meter drop toward the end of the net.

John also stated that he could now trigger the Echolink response from the Bayview Arena parking lot using his 4W hand-held, with its "rubber-duck" antenna. The Echolink response is a useful test of repeater range (PTT while pressing the "\*" key).

*(Note, subsequent to the meeting: A Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> test shows that VE3EES can now carry out a 5/9 QSO through the repeater from his Richmond Hill QTH, using a 25W transmitter attached to an indoor dual band vertical.) This was not possible with the old repeater from our 2 St. Clair East location. Based upon this test, it would seem that the repeater is probably capable of reaching members' QTHs as far away as Markham.)*

John confirmed that the two Mitrek radios from the old repeater had been delivered on January 27<sup>th</sup> to Andrew Jones, VA3GTU to check their sensitivity and for repair or tuning.

### **Fox Hunt**

No change. As a reminder, six members - VA3AAD, VE3IJS, VE3ENA, VA3MDJ, VE3VNC and VA3EJF have already agreed to participate, with VE3EES being the fox, sometime before mid-May.

Doug, VE3EES will organize a group antenna construction project for the next (Feb.15<sup>th</sup>) meeting. Elliot, VA3EJF will assist Doug in setting up the logistics of the hunt.

### **Future Presentations**

|             |                                   |   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| February 15 | Doug, VE3EES and Elliottm, VA3EJF | Construction of a 70cm fox hunt antenna |
| March 1     | Tom, VE3BKA                       | Subject t.b.a.                          |
| March 15    | John, VA3AAD                      | Subject t.b.a.                          |
| April 5     | Frans, VE3VNC                     | Subject t.b.a.                          |
| April 19    | Ian, VE3IJS                       | Subject t.b.a.                          |
| May 3       | (need a volunteer)                |   |
| May 17      | Tony, VE3VME and Elliottm VA3EJF  | Field day preparation                   |
| June 7      | (need a volunteer)                |   |

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

John. VA3MDJ reminded everyone that he has inserted additional articles into a loose-leaf book, describing potential topics, that is kept in the meeting room cupboard. Several members are available who can coach other members in the rudiments of PowerPoint preparation, which is really quite easy and intuitive.

### **Skywide ARC**

No change. Nortown and Skywide officers intend to explore areas of common interest.

### **Albert Yates Award**

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***

### **DMR Radio**

Ian, VE3IJS stated that he now has a DMR hand-held that has amazing audio clarity and that this will be the subject of his April 19<sup>th</sup> presentation.

### **Financial**

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$10.00, In Jim, VE3GRT's absence, there was no raffle.

### **Presentation**

John, VA3MDJ gave an incredible video presentation about the International Space Station (ISS) and its connection to ham radio. An abbreviated PDF file is attached that cannot do justice to the video. Hopefully, after the next meeting, we will have been able to post the video to the Club web site, from where members will be able to download and view it.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bayview Community Centre. Doug, VE3EES's presentation will be about constructing a portable 70cm antenna for use in the Club's forthcoming Spring Fox Hunt.

John Shepherd  
VA3AAD  
and  
John Carlisle  
VA3MDJ