



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the February 1st, 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 28th 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. 3rd 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 27th 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.15th) meeting. Elliot, VA3EJF will assist Doug in setting up the logistics of the hunt.

Future Presentations

February 15	Doug, VE3EES and Elliotm, 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 Elliotm 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 17th 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 19th 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 15th 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