



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the January 4th, 2013 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ

Frans VE3VNC

Ian VE3IJS

John VA3AAD

Doug VE3EES

David VE3VNE

Bert VE3ENA

Jim VE3GRT

Tom VE3BKA

Tony VE3VME

Ron VA3GRE

Elliot VA3EJF

Paul, VA3/VE3PGF

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Geoff VE3GEG

Vince VE3ELB

Vipi VE3PID

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting,

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that on Dec 17, he and Ian, VE3IJS had re-installed the “old” repeater at 2 St. Clair East but that in moving it into its location, it had been jarred while moving it over the threshold into its location . Although a cursory test indicated that it was working properly, it as discovered subsequently that it had reduced power and produced a significant amount of static. On Dec. 28, John and Vince, VE3ELB examined the unit and found that at least two of the RF connectors inside were loose, having been soldered inadequately. They decided to re-install the back-up unit and move the “old” unit to Vince’s QTH for an RF connector rebuild.

John, VA3MDJ stated that the back-up unit seems to have much better coverage than it had earlier in December.

[Note: (added by VA3AAD January 6) On Dec. 28, we had also replaced the repeater’s gas-discharge lightning arrestor. Tests on the old arrestor now show that it had an insertion loss of 6.5 dB, rather than an expected < 0.1 dB. This would have reduced repeater power and sensitivity by a factor of 4.5 and probably accounts for the backup’s improved performance.]

John, VA3AAD stated that he hoped to have the old unit back in service before the next Club meeting. John, VA3MJD suggested, once this is done, that we agree on a time when as many members as possible can get on the air for a Net to try to map out the “old” repeater’s coverage. He stated that since our Yong and St. Clair location is marginal, being blocked to the East and West by taller buildings, Club members should maintain a lookout for suitable tall building sites. Condominium towers are not optimal because of the changing compositions and priorities of residents’ boards.

Fox Hunt

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 Feb.15th meeting. Elliot, VA3EJF will assist Doug in setting up the logistics of the hunt.

Holiday Festive Dinner

The December 3rd dinner at the David Duncan House was a success. Ian, VE3IJS reported that costs were equal to revenues (profit \$3.68). On behalf of Club members, John, VA3MDJ thanked Ian for having organized the event.

Future Presentations

January 18	Bert, VE3ENA	Faraday’s induction experiment plus a video.
February 1	John, VA3MDJ	Subject t.b.a.
February 15	Doug, VE3EES and Elliot, 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 Elliot, 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.

Sale of Equipment from VE3MHC (SK, Jan 2010)

John, VA3AAD reported that Margit Costa had asked that we use the \$110, from the sale of the last of VE3MHC’s (SK) equipment, for treats at the December banquet. Elliot, VA3EJF, Corresponding Secretary will write Margit to thank her for this donation. The Club will decide at a later date how best to use these funds

New Business

Skywide ARC

John, VA3MDJ reported that he, Ian, VE3IJS, Vince, VE3ELB and John, VA3AAD had attended a Skywide club meeting on Monday evening, December 10th. Skywide meets once a month in Islington. Its membership is about the same size as Nortown's and its financial assets are similar. A few of its members were Nortown members years ago but now live in the west-end. The Club's web site is at: <http://jproc.ca/sarc/>,

Skywide operates two repeaters – a 70 cm one located in Etobicoke (VE3SKI @ 443.100, +5, PL 123,0) and a 2m one located at Dufferin and Eglinton (VE3SKY @ 146.9850, -600, PL 103.5). Neither repeater has much traffic. The 70 cm repeater is in a building in which the Club has possibly lost contact with facility management. The 2m repeater is in a 22-floor retirement home. This building is located on ground that is 100 ft. higher than our Yonge and St. Clair location, and there are no taller buildings around it. The repeater has excellent coverage.

The purpose of the meeting was to let each Club's members get to know each other and possibly to start to explore ways in which the two organizations could cooperate. Skywide is not incorporated and does not participate in the RAC insurance program. Like Nortown, it has few members who are capable of servicing repeaters.

No proposals were made, but the Nortown and Skywide officers do intend to explore areas of common interest.

St. Catherines Hamfest

Frans, VE3VNC reminded everyone that this well-attended event will be held on Feb. 2nd and that it usually has hordes of hams hungry for bargains after the winter hiatus. If members have major pieces of equipment to sell, they should accompany Frans to the show.

Financial

Club Treasurer, Tom, VE3BKA gave a PowerPoint presentation on mid-year Club finances, along with a projection to July 31, 2013. A PDF copy is attached.

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$11.25, the raffle \$8.00

Presentation

John, VA3AAD, with assistance from Elliot, VA3EJF's Iphone, showed a short BBC News video clip about a ham-radio-reporter who broadcast, in the UK, the first hard news of the Argentinean Falkland Islands invasion. You can see it at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20857595#>

John also gave a PowerPoint presentation about Heinrich Hertz's discovery of radio waves. A PDF copy of this is attached to these minutes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, January 18th, at the Bayview Community Centre. Bert, VE3ENA will demonstrate Faraday's magnetig induction experiment and will show a video of a DX expedition.

John Shepherd
VA3AAD
and
John Carlisle
VA3MDJ