



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the May 17th, 2013 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Bert VE3ENA
John VA3AAD
Tony VE3VME

Frans VE3VNC
Tom VE3BKA
Ian VE3IJS

Jim VE3GRT
Doug VE3EES
Elliot VA3EJF

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Geoff VE3GEG
David VE3VNE

Vipi VE3PID
Vince VE3ELB

Paul, VA3/VE3PGF
Ron VA3GRE

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that Vince, VE3ELB (along with VA3AAD holding the flashlight) had removed the repeater's insensitive M120 receiver, replacing it with the Echolink M100 (see the attached Repeater Log). Results are much improved, although not quite as good as those experienced during the Jan 25 to Feb. 25th period, earlier this year. Vince measured a VSWR of 2.5 to 3.0, which may be a reason for this. Next step will be for John, VA3AAD and Ian, VE3IJS to check out the antenna system.

On behalf of all of the Club members, John, VA3MDJ expressed appreciation to Vince, for all the work that he has put into the repeater and Echolink systems

Monday 9:00 PM UHF Net.

No change. Until further notice, this Net will be operated on 443.650 simplex.

Fox Hunt



Doug, VE3EES reported that the Fox Hunt was a great success, despite periodic rain and hail. Participants were: VA3AAD, VE3IJS, VE3ENA, VA3MDJ, VE3VNC, VE3GRT and VA3EJF. The Fox was stationed in a school yard immediately to the West of the Bayview Arena, using a 60 watt Yagi with its signal directed East. This created a strong signal that was picked up by the rear lobes of hunters' Yagis when they were pointed East. Consequently the hunters all dispersed toward the East, most of whom started to work their way back West from Leslie. Just as time ran out, John, VA3MDJ was the only participant to determine that the Fox had actually been located behind (to the West of) the Arena.

Lessons learned:

- (1) Do a 360 degree sweep, watching for 180 degree differences.
- (2) Use a good attenuator on your direction-finding Yagi.
- (3) Have the Fox respond with a signal whenever queried, instead of having the Fox transmit on a predetermined (eg. every ten minute) schedule.

On behalf of the Club, John, VA3MDJ thanked Doug for having arranged the Hunt.

(See photos on page 3. VE3ENA and VE3GRT had left before we remembered to record the event.)

Future Presentations

June 7 John, VA3AAD Subject t.b.a.

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

No volunteers were solicited for presentations for meetings in September.

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

Members voted to award the honour, for 2012 -2013, to John, VA3AAD.

Social Media

VE3IJS repeated his suggestion that the recent success of the CenTor Club in attracting new members might be due to their presence on Social media, such as Twitter and Facebook. Elliot, VA3EJF will look into this.

John, VA3AAD suggested that CenTor's success may be due more to the fact that they offer classes for new and would-be hams. Although the Club cannot offer classes, he suggested that Nortown offer one-on-one mentoring. He volunteered to be such a mentor. As part of the mentoring process, would-be hams should attend Club meetings, in order to be exposed to presentations.

Member's Surplus Equipment

No change. Frans, VE3VNC has so far been unable to sell any of Vipi, VE3PID's equipment,

New Business

Club Elections

Immediate Past President, Ian, VE3IJS reported that all five members of the Executive, who had been elected at last year's Annual Meeting had agreed to be nominated to stand for re-election at this year's meeting. He also reported that he had received no other nominations for these positions.

Club President, John, VA3MDJ, asked whether there were any further nominations from the floor. There being none, he called for a show of hands and the following members were elected unanimously for the 2013-2014 term.

President	John Carlisle, VA3MDJ
Vice-President	Norbert Oitzl, VE3ENA
Treasurer	Thomas Dean, VE3BKA
Corresponding Secretary	Elliot Fraser, VA3EJF
Secretary	John Shepherd, VA3AAD

WAVE Award

Elliot, VA3EJF reported that as Club Web Site Administrator, he has received an email requesting a Nortown WAVE award. In view of Bert, VE3ENA's impending summer trip to Europe, Elliot will forward the request to John, VA3AAD and Bert will forward blank certificates to John.

Financial

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$6.70 and the raffle \$11.00.

Presentation

Tony, VE3VME and Elliot, VA3EJF demonstrated the new Field Day software that will connect the site's transmitting stations through wireless. It will count contacts, display areas contacted, catch duplicates and simplify typing where the same station is contacted on multiple bands. He noted that Ontario will now be split into three areas – East, GTA and West. Our site will be in Ontario West.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, June 7th at the Bayview Community Centre. John, VAAAD will handle the presentation, subject to be announced.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
and
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ