



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the September 21st 2012 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Ian VE3IJS
Doug VE3EES
Vipi VE3PID

Elliot VA3EJF
Tony VE3VME
David VE3VNE
Bert VE3ENA

Frans VE3VNC
John VA3AAD
Tom VE3BKA
Ron VA3GRE

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Jim VE3GRT

Geoff VE3GEG

Vince VE3ELB

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone back from the summer break.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that in June a Club work party had installed a replacement omni-directional Comet antenna that seems to work a little better than the old Sinclair. However, we still suspect that the receiver lacks sufficient sensitivity. John (VE3MDJ), Elliot, VA3EJF and John, VA3AAD will remove the repeater to AAD's workshop to check its settings. The Sinclair antenna is now in AAD's workshop awaiting disassembly and tests.

John, VA3MDJ suggested that if we cannot get the repeater adjusted so that it can reach the majority of our members, we should consider making an arrangement with another club to use their repeater. He stated that there are many other repeaters in Toronto with adequate coverage for our purposes that are rarely used. We could sell the repeater equipment, realizing several hundred dollars, as well as reducing our operating expenses.

EchoLink

John, VA3AAD reported that the Club's Echolink site works perfectly over the Internet, and is now listed as registered to VE3NOR, however it does not connect properly over

UHF to the repeater. We will first check out the repeater settings (item above) and then work with Vince, VE3ELB to get this connection working properly.

The informative URL for EchoLink, with free software downloads, is at:

<http://www.echolink.org/>

Club members are encouraged to download this software, register their call signs with EchoLink, and learn how to make use of this operating mode., Eventually, we'll be able to hold our Sunday morning Net on our 70 cm. frequency pair in conjunction with EchLink.

Field Day

Tony, VE3VME reported that we had a successful event in June, with good weather, and with a great time experienced by all.

Ontario Bill 118

John, VA3MDJ reported that the exemption fr mobile hams has been extended for another three years. Nevertheless, members are advised to carry their Industry Canada certificates in their vehicles, in case they are pulled over bu a police officer. They should also carry a photo-copy of the exemption should the officer be unfamiliar with the regulation. Section 13 of this can be downloaded from:

http://www.e-ws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09366_e.htm

John will bring a certificate laminator to the next meeting in case members wish to make use of it.

Fox Hunt

Doug, VE3EES will organize this.

WAVE, WACAN Awards

John, VA3MDJ stated that these are the responsibility of the Vice-President; however, various documents seem to be held by several other members. Those members who are holding on to these are asked to bring them to the next meeting. It was agreed that the awards should be phased out because of lack of demand, but that RAC should first be given the opportunity to become the sponsor.

Future Presentations

Ian, VE3IJS will handle the next meeting's presentation. A schedule for the rest of this calendar year will be established at that time.

New Business

Holiday Festive Dinner

It was agreed that Ian, VE3IJS will make arrangements to hold the dinner in the same room at the David Duncan House on December 7, 2012.

Meeting Room Permit

Elliot, VA3EJF reported that he had finally been able to obtain a “no cost” permit again this year, but only after certifying in an 8-page application that we are a not-for-profit public service organization, and that member’s names, postal codes and ages show that at least 90% of our members are Toronto residents and that 90% are 60 years of age or older.

John, VA3MDJ thanked Elliot for going to all this effort. He stated that the Club can certainly not afford to pay for a meeting room rental.

Wouxun low-cost 2m/70 cm. HT

John, VA3AAD passed around his new Wouxun KG-UVD1P fully featured dual band hand-held that cost only \$106, shipping included from Hong Kong, that had arrived in just five days. It has voice prompts and has had outstanding reviews. See:

http://www.409shop.com/409shop_shopcat.php?&usercat=1630&parentid=1426

He also distributed a spreadsheet showing all of the Toronto repeaters, their frequencies, PLL tones, locations, whether they are active and whether they have EchoLink, IRLP or digital modes. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Sale of Equipment

Frans, VE3VNC announced that he had finally sold, for \$100, an EMAC 4-1000A RF transmitter tube that had been donated to the Club by Bert, VE3ENA. He handed the cash to Club Treasurer, Tom, VE3BKA. John, VA3MDJ thanked Frans for continuing to make available this source of revenue for the Club.

Auditor’s Report

Tony, VE3VME presented his auditor’s report for 2011-2012, confirming that bank statements are consistent with the Club’s balance statement, that revenues and expenses are documented and are comparable with the number of members and with Club activities, and that there are no unpaid liabilities.

John, VA3MDJ thanked Tony for again carrying out the audit.

Financial

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$19.00. In Jim, VE3GRT’s absence, there was no raffle.

John, VA3AAD gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached, in PDF format) showing that the Club bank balance had declined by \$328 during the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The presentation showed a budgeted surplus of \$170 for 2012-2013 through the implementation of certain cost reduction and revenue enhancing measures.

Club Equipment Inventory

John, VA3AAD gave the attached (in PDF format) PowerPoint summary of the locations of all the Club equipment. A more detailed list showing model and serial numbers, where appropriate, is also attached.

Presentation

John, VA3AAD showed a video dubbed in English given at Friedrichshafen in June about the Vector Network Analyzer VNWA. A PDF copy of the PowerPoints shown in the video is attached. For more information on the VNWA see:

http://sdr-kits.net/VNWA3_Description.html

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on October October 5th at the Bayview Community Centre. Ian, VE3IJF is now working on his presentation. Hope to see you there.

John Shepherd
VA3AAD