



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the June 15th, 2012 Meeting

Present:

Tom, VE3BKA
John VA3MDJ

John VA3AAD
Jim, VE3GRT

Elliot VA3EJF
Doug VE3EES

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Tony VE3VME
Vipi VE3PID
Frans VE3VNC

David VE3VNE
Ian VE3IJS
Geoff VE3GEG

Bert VE3ENA
Ron VA3GRE
Vince, VE3ELB

Old Business

Repeater

The current situation is:

- (1) John, VA3AAD reported that the vertical mono-band 70 cm. base station antenna, a NCG/Comet Model CA-712-EF has been shipped and should arrive next week. He will now order a ten foot 2" mast extension and a coax extension.
- (2) No change: At the repeater's location at 2 St. Clair East, we will replace the existing Sinclair 4-bay dipole antenna with the new Comet antenna. Before installing the Comet we will measure the repeater's power output at the antenna.
- (3) No change: We will disassemble the Sinclair, at least partially, looking for evidence of corroded connectors.
- (4) No change: Vince, VE3ELB has linked one of his his existing EchoLink nodes to the repeater. The node number is 713682. Members, and other hams, whose QTH's are not close enough to access the repeater, can now do so over the Internet. Members who can trigger the repeater can now access EchoLink through their transceivers. Keypad instructions are on the last page of these minutes.
- (5) Vince now has a Nortown Industry Canada call sign certificate and has requested that the VE3NOR call sign be attributed to this node.
- (6) John, VA3MDJ has programmed a 70 cm. Motorola transceiver for use at Vince, VE3ELB's QTH, for the EchoLink connection.
- (7) John, VA3AAD has donated to the Club a ten-year-old 2.53 GHz computer with two 70 Gig hard drives, for use at Vince's QTH, for echoLink.
- (8) Elliot, VA3EJF has now located a record of the password for the repeater controller, so that the "tail" can be shortened a little.

- (9) No change: 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.

- (10) Elliot, VE3EJF suggested that now that we have EchoLink up and running, perhaps we don't need IRLP.

Upcoming Presentations

Sept. 21, 2012

John, VA3AAD – RF cavity resonators..

October 5, 2012

Either Elliot, VA3EJF or Ian, VE3IJS.

No change:Volunteers will be needed for the next season's meetings. Please remember that we'll need two presentations a year from each active member..

John, VA3MDJ reminded members about the loose-leaf book [our Presentation Binder] that is now kept in the Club meeting cupboard for use by members planning to develop presentations. John announced that he has put a CD in the Presentation binder containing earlier presentations

No change: Presentations need not be complicated or lengthy, and can be on any radio-related topic. ARRL members (only) can access all except the most recent issues at:

<http://www.arrl.org/experiments-1-through-10>.

John stated that he will be adding previous PowerPoint presentations to a CD that will be placed within the Presentation Binder. Members are requested to bring in and give to John, VA3MDJ old copies of QST and Radcom so that he cut out and file useful articles in the binder.

Club Future

In the interests of time. there was no further discussion about the Club's future. An updated summary of the "to-do" items, arising out of the two last meetings, is:

- (1) No change: Next year's executive will explore the possibility of having other clubs come under our corporate and liability insurance umbrella, our repeater pair our EchoLink node and our excellent Field Day location. A start might be to invite another Club to one of our meetings.
- (2) We will not connect IRLP to the repeater.
- (3) No change: We will keep our eyes open for a better repeater location (although, with four other antennas on the same roof-top, our location may not be all that bad.) Our immediate goal is to try out a new repeater antenna. Now that EchoLink is connected to the repeater, and provided that Club members do make use of it, relocation may be unnecessary.
- (4) No change: In October, Tom, VE3BKA, the incoming Club Treasurer will close out the Club mail box which has been prepaid until January 2013.. Before doing this John, VA3AAD and the Club President make a trip to the bank branch in the

- Fall to advise the bank that we will no longer need to have monthly bank statements mailed ,and to change the Club's mail address
- (5) No change: Next year's executive will contact RAC to determine whether that organization would take over the WACAN and WAVE awards. Based upon RAC's response, a decision will be made as to whether to discontinue these awards.
- (6) No change: Collectively, we're holding our breath, hoping that th City doesn't start to charge us for the meeting room in the Fall.

Field Day

In Tony, VE3VME's absence, Elliot, VA3MDJ led the discussion about Field Day. It will be held this coming weekend of June 23, 24.

Doug, VE3EES; John, VA3MDJ; Elliot, VA3EJF; Frans, VE3VNC; Tom, VE3II, (the site host); John, VA3AAD; and Tony, VE3VME; (a total of seven members) will attend, for all or part of the weekend.

Doug, VE3EES was uncertain whether Ron, VE3GRE would be attending.

Participants are committed to arrive at the site no later than 10:00 AM on Saturday, in order to be set up to start operating at 2:00 PM.

We will operate four stations:

- Elliot and John S. on 15m phone, with a band-pass filter. Set up first
- Frans and Tony on 20m phone, with a band-pass filter
- Doug on 40m phone, with a band-pass filter. Antenna south of driveway
- Tom on 80m CW and CW on any other bands
- John C. will be floating back-up

Elliot handed out a map to the site and a checklist of useful items to bring. He has arranged with Tom, VE3II (our host) for use of the site and his generator, and has arranged for a porta-potty to be delivered.

| Band | Will Bring Radio | Will Bring Lap-top | Will Bring Wire Antenna |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 15m | Elliot | Elliot | Elliot |
| 20m | Frans | John S. | Elliot |
| 40m | Doug | Doug | Doug (inverted V) |
| 80m | Tom (home station) | Tom (home station) | Tom (home station) |

Important other equipment will be brought or arranged by:

Elliot

- Gas for generator
- Club's guy-ropes,
- Club's power cables
- Club's lengths of coax

Logging software

John C

Club's MFJ antenna analyzer

Frans

His field day radio.

Doug

His wizard inverted "V" antenna

John S

Club's band-pass filters

Club's grounding rods with lightning arrestors

Coax jumpers

Lap top computer

Four 2-Gig thumb drives for logging software.

Club's wire antenna sling shot (from Ian)

Spare MFJ antenna analyzer.

Club's check book

Everyone

Short jumper lengths of coax with male SO-239 connectors, for connections to band-pass filters and lightning arrestors.

Short lengths of grounding wire to connect transceivers to grounding rod clamps.

Bring your tent or SUV to sleep in, and snack food to subsist on during the day (most folks take a break and go out in the evening as a group to a decent restaurant – same for breakfast the next morning) Location (see the attached map) is about an hour North of Toronto, this side of Barrie. We must get there well before 10:00 AM Saturday and have everything packed up by 3:00 PM on the Sunday. Everyone had a great time last year.

New Business

B.C Call Sign

Elliot, VA3EJF announced that he now has an additional call sign – VA7EJF.

Finances

The raffle yielded \$5.00 and the coffee collection \$6.00.

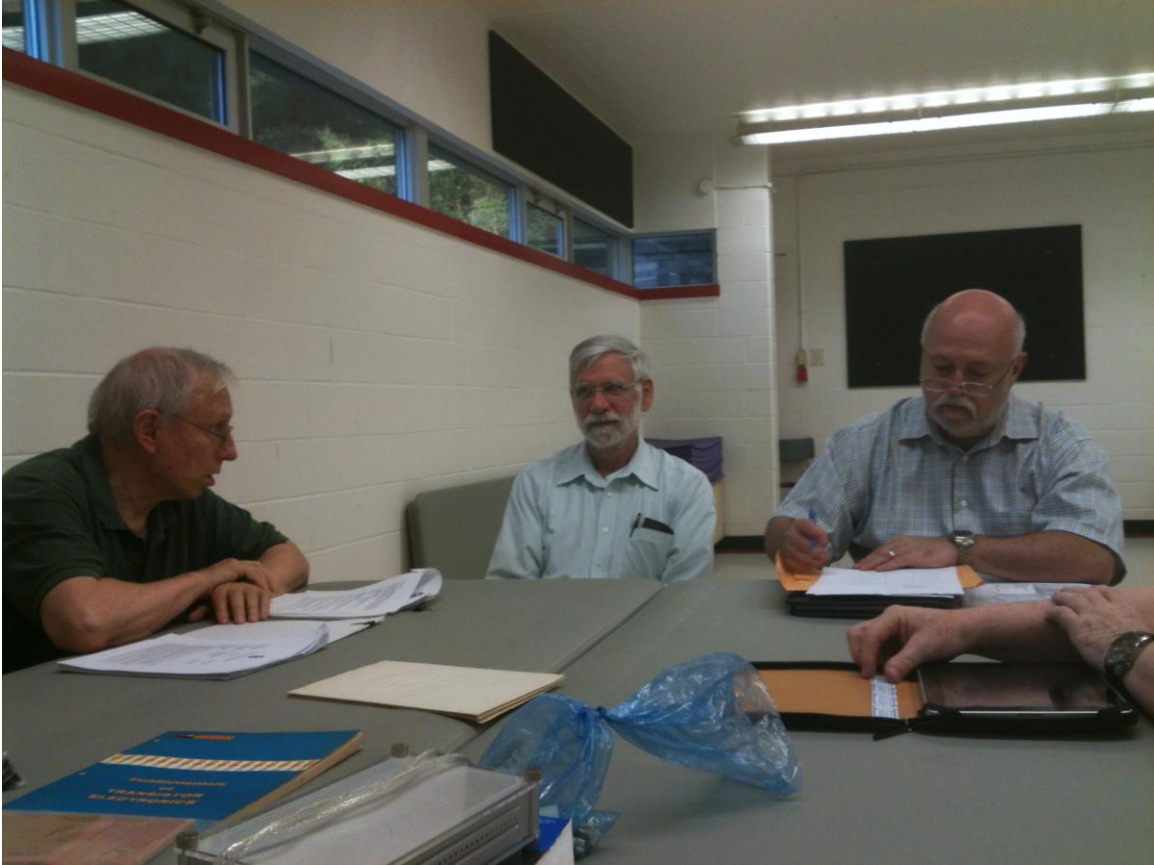
Presentation

Jim, VE3GRT played a classis audio CD about an (UK humour) who missed out on a "mayday" call off the coast of Africa, when he was scooped by a Japanese ham.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, September 21st. John, VA3AAD will give a short presentation on cavity resonance.

John, VA3AAD



From left to right VA3AAD, VE3BKA and VA3EJF discussing Field Day

ECHOLINK NODE 713682
USER DTMF COMMANDS

| FUNCTION | DTMF COMMAND |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| STATUS | 08 |
| PLAY INFO | * |
| RECONNECT | 09 |
| RANDOM USER | 01 |
| RANDOM LINK | 03 |
| RANDOM CONFERENCE | 02 |
| CONNECT BY NODE | DIRECT INPUT OF NODE NUMBER |
| DISCONNECT | 73 |