



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the June 7th, 2013 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Tom VE3BKA
Elliot VA3EJF

Vince VE3ELB
John VA3AAD

Jim VE3GRT
Ian VE3IJS

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Geoff VE3GEG
David VE3VNE
Frans VE3VNC

Vipi VE3PID
Bert VE3ENA
Doug VE3EES

Paul, VA3/VE3PGF
Ron VA3GRE
Tony VE3VME

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting and welcomed Raj Singh, who is preparing to obtain his Radio Amateur's Certificate.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD distributed a Discussion Paper (copy attached) listing the advantages to the Club of continuing to operate the repeater, but detailing problems with the current set-up. Objectives of the paper were to to set the parameters for an informed discussion and to try to determine an appropriate course of action.

John, VA3MDJ stated that he was in general agreement with the statements in the paper and hoped that a consensus would develop on the best course of action. He stated that group activities such as operation of the repeater, Field Day, Fox Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, Annual festive Dinner, Weekly Nets and the meetings themselves were essential to the organizations continued viability.

Vince, VE3ELB reported that he had again been in contact with the VE3SKY Club's President and their Technical Officer (see our Jan. 4th, 2013 minutes) and had set up a meeting later in June to visit their 2m. repeater site, located on a 22-story retirement building on Dufferin, immediately South of Eglinton. He stated that SKY was receptive to sharing this site with Nortown's 70cm. repeater. The SKY frequency pair is 146.985

MHz. (-0.600, PLL 103.5). and has excellent coverage. Because ground level at the site is some 100 feet higher than at our Yonge and St. Clair location, and it has no nearby taller buildings, it should provide much greater coverage. The Nortown equipment would have to be rack-mounted into an existing cabinet, and a dual band antenna with lightning arrestor and a duplexer purchased. Vince volunteered to build the rack trays for the Nortown radios.

After some discussion, it was agreed that Vince should visit the SKY site to assess the technical feasibility of a joint operation. Based on this, the two clubs/ executives should draw up a memo of understanding concerning access issues, the sharing of expenses and possibly other areas for potential cooperation. John, VA3AAD and Ian, VE3IJS will remove the Nortown repeater from the Young and St. Clair site, leaving the antenna in place, so that Vince, VE3ELB can build the rack trays. The EchoLink system will be put back into service using the Club's G.E. Phoenix radio.

Although the next regular Club meeting is not scheduled until September, further progress updates will be issued, over the summer, by email.

Monday 9:00 PM UHF Net.

During the summer, until a Club repeater is back in operation, this Net will not operate.

Future Presentations

September 20 John, VA3AAD & Vince, VE3ELB EchoLink and All-Star

Volunteers will be solicited for future presentations at this meeting.

Skywide ARC

(See above, under Repeater.) Nortown and Skywide officers intend to explore areas of common interest.

Social Media

Elliot, VA3EJF will look into this. The Nortown listing on the RAC web site now indicates that the Club offers one-on-one coaching for prospective new hams.

Member's Surplus Equipment

Frans, VE3VNC has so far been unable to sell any of Vipi, VE3PID's equipment, John, VA3MDJ reported that a radio received from Vipi is an 800 MHz. trunking unit that cannot be used by hams and that has no commercial value.

Field Day

Date is Saturday, June 22 and Sunday June 23. Contest starts at 2:00 PM on the Saturday. Location is Tom Job, VE3II's QTH, a little South-West of Barrie. Contest ends at 2:00 PM Sunday, when we take down the antennas, pack and clean up. Address, for GPSers, is 7758 8th Line, Utopia. Directions for the rest of us are:

- (1) Highway 400 North, past Hwy. 89, to Exit 85, Innisfil Beach Road.
- (2) Go left, West, to Thornton, at Hwy 27.
- (3) Go right, North, on Hwy. 27 to 20th Side Road on the left.
- (4) Go left, West, on 20th Side Road, through the village of Ivy, until you come to 8th Concession, also called 8th Line Road.
- (5) Turn Right, North, on 8th Line Road for a km. or two, until you start to climb a hill. Look for Ton Job's mailbox on the right and turn left into his property. Map is attached. The following photo of the entrance shows some field day tents.



Members and friends are invited to come up and share the experience. If you can't bring a tent, at least come up for lunch and try your hand at operating one of the stations. Most of us take time off to go into Barrie for dinner and breakfast. It's great fun. Don't miss it.

Here are two previous year's participants, looking far more serious than is warranted.



WAVE Award

In Bert, VE3ENA's absence, John, VA3AAD has verified and mailed WAVE and WACAN certificates to Arlen Young, K6KZM, of Palo Alto, CA., who scanned and submitted 40 QSL cards. Congratulations Arlen.

New Business

Club Web Site, www.ve3nar.org

Elliot, VA3EJF, Club web site administrator, reported that the Club site now includes a world map where hams can mark locations from where they access the site. Also, John, VA3AAD has uploaded the past six fiscal years of Club minutes (2007-2008 to 2012-2013) to the Site, as well as some 40 copies of presentations by members, all in PDF format. Elliot stated that although these documents are now viewable by anyone, he would investigate whether it would be possible to have a password-protected "members-only" section for these. It is anticipated that the Club equipment list (which member is holding what equipment) will also be uploaded to this site. Pending further discussion, Club financial statements have not been uploaded.

Financial

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$6.35 and the raffle \$6 .00.

Presentation

John, VA3AAD, gave a brief presentation about microwave waveguides and cavity resonators (PDF is attached) showing that a cylindrical cake tin will resonate at 1,135 MHz., in close agreement with a theoretical calculation. Before everyone dozed off, he also reviewed scattering parameters (S-parameters) and how they can be calculated from voltage and phase information measured on a vector network analyzer.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, September 20th at the Bayview Community Centre. John, VAAAD and Vince, VE3ELB will give a presentation about Echolink and All-Star. Hopefully, the Club repeater will be set up and working, so that they will have some actual examples to demonstrate.

Have a great summer. Hope to see you there/

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
and
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ