



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the March 4th, 2011 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
John VA3AAD

Bert VE3ENA
Doug VE3EES

Ian VE3IJS
Tom VE3BKA

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Jost VE3SWI
Paul VE3PGF
Vince VE3ELB
Elliot VA3EJF
Vipi VE3PID

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Tony VE3VME
Cyril VA3CJE
Bernie VE3OTR
Frans VE3VNC

Tony VE3XC
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Jim VE3GRT
Geoff VA3GEG
Jal VE3SOC
David VE3VNE

Old Business

Repeater

No change. Elliot, VA3EJF is continuing to work on the Linux IRLP IP address issue

John, VA3MDJ suggested that before meetings we have a talk-in on the repeater. It was pointed out that this might work for members driving from the South, but at the Bayview Community Centre, a directional antenna is required.

The VE3MHC (SK) 1926 Antique Bremer-Tulley Radio

No change. Tom, VE3BKA, and Elliot, VA3EJF will try to make another effort to repair this radio, so that it can be sold in working order.

MISSING – The Club’s Kenwood 6-meter T-550 Radio

No change. Through copies of these minutes. Andrew, VA3CRA, and Tom, VE3TEG are asked to search their equipment shelves for the unit. It was last seen at a Field Day, several Years ago. Elliot, VA3EJF will follow up with them.

Field Day Lightning Arrestors

John, VA3AAD passed around one of the four I.C.E. arrestors that have been purchased for Field Day. He is still trying to find a source for half-inch copper-coated steel ground rods.

New Business

Presentations

The schedule for presentations is:

March 18	Bert, VE3ENA
April 1	Geoff Golde, VA3RTV (Ian, VA3IJS to confirm)
April 18	John, VA3AAD
May 6	Frans, VE3VNC
May 20	Doug, VE3EES
June 3	TBA (need a volunteer) - Ian, VA3IJS?
June 17	Field Day Preparation, Tony, VE3VME

Financial

In VE3GRT's absence, there was no raffle. The coffee collection yielded \$6.75.

Presentation

John, VA3AAD gave a rather dry PowerPoint presentation on "VSWR and Coax Line Loss" that generated a bit of a debate. His slides are attached to these minutes in PDF format. He demonstrated an ARRL program, "TLW" that calculates line loss.

The debate was related to standing waves that are set up within a coax, when the impedance of the load at the end of the coax does not match its characteristic impedance. A question was raised as to whether VSWR, if somehow it could be measured at different locations along the coax, would be 1:1 at certain points that were a half-wave apart, where the voltage was zero (see slide #11). There was no consensus on this.

Attached is a spreadsheet, recording results from "TLW". It lists VSWR's at the transmitter end of a coax that is progressively shortened in one-eighth-wave-length increments, keeping the antenna (load) impedance constant. The results show a smooth VSWR transition at the end of the coax that nowhere reaches a value of 1:1. It appears that there is no advantage to having the coax length any multiple of half, quarter of one-eighth wavelengths.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on March 18th.

Our master builder, Bert, VE3ENA will demonstrate two projects that he completed some time ago, a QRP CW Transmitter, and a Linear Scale Capacitance Meter. We always learn a lot from Bert's presentations and no one will want to miss this one.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD
Ian Shaw, VE3IJS