



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the April 17th, 2009 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Ian VE3IJS
John VA3AAD
Cyril VA3CJE

Jim VE3GRT
Vipi VE3PID
Bert VE3ENA

Frans VE3VNC
Bernie VE3OTR
Doug VE3EES

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Jost VE3SWI
David VE3VNE
Geoff VA3GEG

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Tony VE3VME
Martin VE3MHC
Elliot VA3EJF

Tony VE3XC
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Paul VE3PGF
Jal VE3SOC

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3MDJ reported that a dolly on castors was installed under the repeater on April 8th.

He stated that sometime before the next meeting, a simple temporary ground plane antenna will be installed just above the existing Sinclair antenna (see Presentation note below.). Club members will be notified once this has been done and will be asked to try to determine whether the change has resulted in any observable difference in reception..

John, VA3AAD stated that field strength measurements will also be taken at various locations on the repeater building roof, before and after the change-over, to try to provide additional information.

John, VA3MDJ and Doug, VE3EES have yet to determine the coordinate heading between the repeater and Doug's QTH in Richmond Hill, in order to establish whether Doug's Yagi is receiving a direct signal or a reflection.

To date, VA3MDJ, VA3CJE, VE3IJS, VA3EJF, VE3EES, VA3AAD and VE3ENA have all reported that they can trigger the repeater from their QTH's. Other members who would like to receive advice or assistance in establishing a connection should not hesitate to contact one of these members.]

RAC Insurance:

John, VA3MDJ indicated that there was nothing new to report on this issue.

John, VA3AAD stated that next week he would be mailing to RAC an application for renewal of the coverage. *Note: The insurance premium will be \$125 this year, to reflect the fact that eight of our twenty-three Club members are not RAC members.*

Ontario Bill 118

John, VA3MDJ indicated that there was nothing new to report on this issue.

RAC Licensing Issue

Doug, VE3EES reported that he had nothing new to report on this issue.

Albert Yates Trophy – Don Guthrie, VE3EVZ

John, VA3AAD stated that he had been unable to contact Don to determine how best to get him the plaque and to receive thanks from the Club for the work he did on the repeater antenna installation..

Field Day



Another reminder to please mark your calendars now for **June 27th**, so that we can plan for a great turnout. Tony, VE3VME has emailed Club members to firm up participation intentions. **Please Note: Even if you will not be able to attend Field Day, please email Tony at carrollt@istar.ca to confirm this.**

New Business

Club Elections

John, VA3AAD, as Immediate Past President stated that under the Club Articles of Incorporation, the Annual General Meeting shall be the first meeting in May, at

which time elections shall be held for next year's executive. He reported that a proposed slate of officers had been established, consisting of the following members, all of whom had had agreed to stand for election:

John Carlisle, VA3MDJ – President
Bert Oitzl, VE3ENA – Vice-President
Frans Huizinga, VE3VNC – Recording Secretary
Ian Shaw, VE3IJS – Corresponding Secretary
John Shepherd, VA3AAD – Treasurer.

He stated that further nominations would be accepted from the floor at the next meeting, or could be emailed to him at john@eternalchaos.com in advance of the meeting. He stated that nominees must have been contacted and must have agreed to stand for election. He stated that proxy votes for or against any of the nominees could also be emailed to him in advance of the meeting.

Future Presentations

The schedule for presentations will be:

May 1, 2009	Bert VE3ENA (t.b.a)
May 15, 2009	John VA3AAD (Radiation Field Strength Regulations)
June 5, 2009	Doug VE3EES and Ian VE3IJS (Hammond Museum)
June 19, 2009	Tony VE3VME (Field Day preparation)

Financial

The meeting raffle yielded \$8.00 and the coffee collection \$7.30. Sale of equipment yielded \$20.00..

Presentation

John, VA3MDJ demonstrated how to build a simple ground plane antenna for use with the repeater. It is small enough and light enough that it can be attached readily to a high point on a building, and moved, if necessary, if there is evidence of "picket fence" reception. Members interested in use of the club repeater who have difficulty triggering or in using the DTMF function may wish to consider constructing such an antenna and moving it around a bit to find a "sweet spot" One member found that he could trigger the repeater in one spot in his house but not in others. There are similar simple designs for 70 cm. "hockey stick" yagis which might be more effective and which are easily findable on the internet.



Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on May 1st at the Bayview Community Centre. Bert, VE3ENA will demonstrate an SSB exciter with a 175 Watt mechanical filter that he has built. Bert's workmanship is incredible. Don't miss this demo.

Also, we'll conduct elections for next year's executive.

Hope to see you there.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD

and

John Carlisle, VA3MDJ