



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the April 3rd, 2009 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
Ian VE3IJS
John VA3AAD
David VE3VNE

Jim VE3GRT
Elliot VA3EJF
Bert VE3ENA

Geoff VA3GEG
Bernie VE3OTR
Doug VE3EES

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Claus VE3PMD
Sam VA3SEP
Andrew VA3CRA
Jost VE3SWI
Cyril VA3CJE
Vipi VE3PID

Bill VE3WHW
Rej VA3REJ
Ron VA3CCR
Tony VE3VME
Martin VE3MHC
Frans VE3VNC

Tony VE3XC
Tom VE3TEG
Jana VE3BFU
Paul VE3PGF
Jal VE3SOC

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3MDJ reported that he has built a dolly on castors to lift the repeater cabinet off the concrete floor, to make it more easily accessible. This will be installed sometime before the next meeting.

At the next meeting, as part of his presentation, John, VA3MDJ will demonstrate how a 70 cm. ground-plane antenna can be constructed. It is planned to place this antenna on the roof of the repeater building, at the top of the existing antenna, to assess its signal strength, over a period of a few days, compared to that of the existing antenna.

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.

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

Eliot, VA3EJF has had a plaque engraved for Don. John, VA3AAD will contact Don to determine when he can attend a meeting to accept the plaque and receive thanks from the Club for the work he did on the repeater 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 will shortly be emailing Club members to firm up participation intentions.

Donation on behalf of Gordon Everett (SK), VE3IFZ

Further to this item in our last meeting's minutes, the following email was received from Joan, VE3ZC, in Ottawa

John, have just enjoyed reading the Nortown minutes. I shall draw your attention to a couple of items. Re the equipment, and thank you for picking it up; although VE3IFZ is Gordon, he was also Carl Everett. It was by that name he was known. During WWII, Carl was overseas from 1939 to 1945 serving in the army. Actually it has been sometime since he passed away. The other item for future reference is my call - VE3ZC (when attending Nortown, it was VE3FVO).

New Business

There was no new business.

Future Presentations

The schedule for presentations will be:

April 17, 2009	John VA3MDJ (building a 70 cm. antenna)
May 1, 2009	Bert VE3ENA (t.b.a)
May 15, 2009	John VA3AAD (Radiation Safety calculations))
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 \$8.24.

Presentation

John, VA3AAD brought a Fluke pre-calibrated signal generator (SG) to the meeting, along with a digital power meter.

The instruments were used to check the receive sensitivity and transmit frequency accuracy of several members' FM hand-holds. The power meter was used with the SG to check the effectiveness of a 200W 40-m pass-band filter that will be used at Field Day, to reduce cross-band interference.



The RF calibrator was obtained from <http://www.m3electronix.com/rfcal.html>
Details about the power meter kit are at: <http://www.m3electronix.com/fpm1.html>



John also distributed the attached “dBmChart” which lists a range of signal and noise strengths, expressed in dBm, S-meter readings and micro-volts (rms) at 50 ohms impedance.. .

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on April 17th at the Bayview Community Centre. John, VA3MDJ will demonstrate how a simple 70 cm. ground plane antenna can be constructed for use on the Club repeater frequency.



John Shepherd, VA3AAD

and

John Carlisle, VA3MDJ