Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the February 15th, 2013 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ	Ian VE3IJS	Jim VE3GRT
Bert VE3ENA	Tom VE3BKA	Ron VA3GRE
Elliot VA3EJF	Doug VE3EES	

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Geoff VE3GEG	Vince VE3ELB	Vipi VE3PID
Tony VE3VME	Paul, VA3/VE3PGF	Frans VE3VNC
John VA3AAD	David VE3VNE	

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting, and welcomed the two guests.

Old Business

Repeater

In John, VA3AAD's absence, John, VA3MDJ reported that the repeater is still working well, and can be triggered as far north as Richmond Hill. However, the M120 transmitter is of concern because it is not rated for continuous duty and requires fan cooling.

The two Mitrek radios from the old repeater have now been checked out by Andrew, VE3GTU. The receiver was operating within specifications, but the transmitter was 6 kHz. out, and was adjusted.

On Feb. 20th the old repeater will be reinstalled and its receive sesitivity re-tested, and compared to the M129 receiver, If, as is expected, the Mitrek sensitivity is poorer than that of the M120, both repeaters will be removed and Elliot, VA3EJF and John, VA3AAD will hook up a new configuration consisting of the M120 receiver combined with the Mitrek transmitter.

John, VA3AAD reported that on Feb. 10th, Vince, VE3ELB had moved the Club Echolink equipment (radio and computer) to John's QTH. For this, John has purchased a 30A switching power supply (Samlex SEC1235M) for $140, from Radioworld. The Echolink connection is also working well.

The following table lists Club members wo now have UHF or Echolink connectivity to the Club repeater.

Via UHF	Via Echolimk	No Accessibility Yet
John, VA3AAD	John, VA3AAD	
Elliot, VA3EJF		
		Ron, VA3GRE
John, VA3MDJ		
	Tom, VE3BKA	
Doug, VE3EES	Doug, VE3EES	
Vince, VE3ELB	Vince, VE3ELB	
Bert, VE3ENA		
		Geoff, VE3GEG
		Jim, VE3GRT
Ian, VE3IJS	Ian, VE3IJS	
		Paul, VE3PGF
		Vipi, VE3PID
		Tony, VE3VME
		Frans, VE3VNC
		David, VE3VNE

The Club repeater's Echolink call sign, VE3NOR, is listed in the Echolink software. For those wishing to contact our repeater through any other repeater (in the world) offering Echolink access, the Nortown node number is 743764.

Remember, we hold a Club UHF/Echolink Net every Monday evening at 9:00 PM. The UHF frequency is 443.650 MHz. (+5 MHz, PL 103.5).

Club members who have not yet connected to Echolink and those who receive these minutes, but who cannot attend meetings are urged to try to participate through our Echolink connection. Other hams on our email list are also invited:

Andrew, VA3CRA
Cyrl, VA3CJEl
Ian, VE3EAN
John, VE3UNR
Tom, VE3TEG
Bill, VE3WHW
Don, VE3EVZ
Jeff, VE3RTV
Jost, VE3BWI
Wayne, VE3IMI
Claus, VE3PMO
Greg, VE3LXL
Joan, VE3ZC
Rej, VA3REJ

.Fox Hunt

No change. As a reminder, six members - VA3AAD, VE3IJS, VE3ENA, VA3MDJ, VE3VNC and VA3EJF have already agreed to participate, with VE3EES being the fox, sometime before mid-May.

Doug, VE3EES and Elliot, VA3EJF gave a presentation dscrkibing how the Fox Hunt will be set up. A PDF of the presentation is attached.

Future Presentations

March 1	Tom, VE3BKA	Subject t.b.a.
March 15	John, VA3AAD	Subject t.b.a.
April 5	Frans, VE3VNC	Subject t.b.a.
April 19	Ian, VE3IJS	Subject t.b.a.
May 3	(need a volunteer)	
May 17	Tony, VE3VME and Elliotm VA3EJF	
		Field day preparation
June 7	(need a volunteer)	

There will be no meeting on June 21, the day before the field day weekend.

John. VA3MDJ reminded everyone that he has inserted additional articles into a loose-leaf book, describing potential topics, that is kept in the meeting room cupboard. Several members are available who can coach other members in the rudiments of PowerPoint preparation, which is really quite easy and intuitive.

Skywide ARC

No change. Nortown and Skywide officers intend to explore areas of common interest.

Albert Yates Award

No change. It was agreed that an election for the award would be held at the May 17th meeting, at which date elections for Club executive will also be held. There will be no prior nomination process – members present at that meeting will simply write a nominee's name on a paper ballot and the award winner will be determined by a majority.

New Business

There was no new business..

Financial

The meeting coffee collection yielded $7.25. The raffle yielded $7.00..

Presentation

As recorded above, Doug, VE3EES and Elliot, VA3EJF described the set-up for the Fox Hunt.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, March 1st at the Bayview Community Centre. Tom. VE3BKA is now leafing through the Club loose-leaf book of ideas for presentations, so the subject is t/.b.a.

John Shepherd
VA3AAD
and
John Carlisle
VA3MDJ