



## Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 Meeting

### Present:

John VA3MDJ  
Bert VE3ENA  
Elliot VA3EJF  
David VE3VNE

Frans VE3VNC  
Tom VE3BKA  
Doug VE3EES

Jim VE3GRT  
Ron VA3GRE  
John VA3AAD

### Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Geoff VE3GEG  
Tony VE3VME

Vince VE3ELB  
Paul, VA3/VE3PGF

Vipi VE3PID  
Ian VE3IJS

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

### *Old Business*

#### Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that both the “old” and the “M120” repeaters were now at his QTH and that the “M120” device was attached to his QTH’s roof-top antenna. He stated that he would be bench-testing the sensitivity of both receivers and that on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, he and Elliot, (VA3EJF (mostly VA3EJF) would be checking the “old” repeater’s 200B controller to determine whether it was optimally adjusted.

He stated that over the next few weeks, they would also be making “A/B” comparisons of the coverage of the two repeaters from his QTH’s antenna. He emphasized that this coverage would be inferior to that from the 16<sup>th</sup>-floor Yonge and St. Clair location but that the results should tell us whether we should try to combine a transmitter from the “old” unit with M120 receiver.

#### Monday 9:00 PM UHF Net.

John, VA3AAD stated that because of the current lower height of the repeater antenna, UHF communication will be limited,. Nevertheless, members who find themselves out of range should try to join the Net over Echolink.

Members who are not yet on Echolink are urged to download the free software, email proof of having a call sign, equip their computers with speakers and a microphone, and then simply click on VE3NOR-R as shown in the software on the list of active Echolink nodes.

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

<b>Via UHF</b>	<b>Via Echolink</b>	<b>No Accessibility Yet</b>
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

### **.Fox Hunt\**

At the next meeting, Doug, VE3EES will establish a consensus on the date for the Fox Hunt (tentatively May 12<sup>th</sup>). 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.

### **Future Presentations**

March 15	John, VA3AAD	Measuring receiver sensitivity
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 Elliottm 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 are 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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***

#### **Sale of Equipment**

Frans, VE3VNC reported that he had finally sold Alan Harkness' MFJ 269 antenna tester for \$300. At the next meeting he will give this cash to Tom, VE3BKA, our Treasurer, in return for a Nortown check for \$270 (with the Club keeping 10%).

#### **Raffle Inventory Needed**

Jim, VE3GRT announced that his inventory of "raffle-able" items is now depleted. Members are urged to scrounge within their junk boxes and bring to the next meeting any stuff that they are not likely to use.

#### **Financial**

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$6.00 and the raffle \$7.85..

#### **Presentation**

Tom, VE3BKA gave an excellent and detailed presentation on microwave generation, waveguides, filters and antennas. A sample of his PDF's is attached to these minutes.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bayview Community Centre. John, VA3AAD will demonstrate how to measure an FM receiver's sensitivity, using a signal generator.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD  
and  
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ