



## Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Meeting

### Present:

John VA3MDJ  
Bert VE3ENA  
Doug VE3EES  
Ian VE3IJS

Frans VE3VNC  
Tom VE3BKA  
John VA3AAD

Jim VE3GRT  
Ron VA3GRE

### Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Geoff VE3GEG  
Tony VE3VME  
Vince VE3ELB

Elliot VA3EJF  
Paul, VA3/VE3PGF

Vipi VE3PID  
David VE3VNE

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

## Old Business

### Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that during the next week, Vince, VE3ELB will replace the repeater's M120 radio with the M100 from the Echolink setup, in order to determine whether the M120 receiver is the cause of the repeater's low receive sensitivity.

John, VA3AAD suggested that if this test does not identify the problem, the CAT200B controller should be replaced by the rudimentary controller that came with the M120 repeater. He stated that this will have been the only repeater component that has not been tested, and that the two M120 radios had excellent sensitivity when connected to this (their) controller. He stated that the 200B controller has a complex circuit, with multiple adjustments that we may not have set up properly. It was agreed that this should be tried.

Frans, VE3VNC asked whether a log was being kept of changes made to the repeater. John, VA3AAD confirmed that a log (attached to these minutes) has been kept.

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

John, VA3AAD stated that the Monday evening April 29<sup>th</sup> Net was operated on 443.650 MHz. simplex, between VA3AAD, VA3ENA and VE3IJS, with perfect audio quality. This sets a standard to which we expect to set up the repeater. Until further notice, this Net will be operated on 443.650 simplex.

### **Fox Hunt**



The Fox, Doug, VE3EES stated that the Fox Hunt will be held on **this coming Sunday morning, May 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet in the Bayview Centre parking lot at 10:30 AM to set up teams and to exchange cell phone numbers. The hunt will start at 11:00 AM.

Eight members plan to attend: VA3AAD, VE3IJS, VE3ENA, VA3MDJ, VE3VNC, VE3BKA, VE3GRT and VA3EJF and possibly VA3GRE. have already agreed to participate. Additional members are welcome to join, as we have a surplus of directional antennas.

The Fox, VE3EES stated that the transmitter will be located within two to three kilometers of the parking lot. There is a clue to the transmitter's location in a photograph included in his Feb. 15, 2013 presentation, a copy of which is attached. The transmitter will transmit on simplex 446.100 MHz.

Teams can communicate with each other on the Toronto FM Society's VE3TWR UHF repeater (444.400 +5kHz, PL103.5).

### **Future Presentations**

May 17            Tony, VE3VME and Elliot, VA3EJF  
Field day preparation

June 7            John, VA3AAD            Subject t.b.a.

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

## **Skywide ARC**

No change. Nortown and Skywide officers intend to explore areas of common interest. Vince, VE3ELB reported that one of the Skywide technical members was recently to have tried to contact him.

## **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.

## **Social Media**

No change. VE3IJS's suggestion from the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was deferred until our webmaster, VA3EJF can be present.

## **Member's Surplus Equipment**

Frans, VE3VNC reported that at the last hamfest he had not been able to sell any of Vipi, VE3PID's equipment, but that he would continue to display it at future hamfests. He reminded members that he can only sell certain readily-saleable types of equipment, and that anything that he cannot handle should probably be donated to the Club's annual garage sale.

## ***New Business***

### **Lost MaxTrac**

John. VA3AAD noted that Vipi, VE3PID had located the Club's Mitrek loaner transceiver, and that it would be added back to the Equipment List. Vipi will continue to borrow the unit because once the repeater is set up properly; he should be able to trigger it from Markham.

### **Club Elections**

John, VA3MDJ reminded members that Club elections for officers will be held at the next meeting. Noniminations should be submitted to the Immediate Past President, Ian, VE3IJS.

### **Financial**

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$9.00 and the raffle \$8.00. At the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, there was no raffle, but the coffee collection was \$9.40..

### **Presentation**

John, VA3MDJ gave an excellent presentation on recent US action to narrow commercial radio FM bandwidths and how this has lead Industry Canada to follow suit. This will

lead to some re-allocation of underused frequencies and creates a threat to amateur use of the 70 cm band. A copy of this informative presentation is attached.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Bayview Community Centre. Tony, VE3VME and Elliot, VA3EJF will host a discussion of plans for the Field Day weekend, June 23 and 24.

John Shepherd, VA3AAD, and  
John Carlisle, VA3MDJ