



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the October 19th, 2012 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
John VA3AAD
Bert VE3ENA

Frans VE3VNC
Doug VE3EES
Ron VA3GRE

Ian VE3IJS
David VE3VNE
Elliot VA3EJF

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Tom VE3BKA
Tony VE3VME

Geoff VE3GEG
Vipi VE3PID

Vince VE3ELB
Jim VE3GRT

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting,

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that he and John (MDJ) had removed the old repeater from its current location into AAD's QTH, for testing, and had replaced it temporarily with our back-up unit. Although the back-up unit does not feature the "VE3NOR" announcement or the key-pad test, members have been asked to assess its range and sensitivity. An email was sent out to all members when this switch was made.

The old unit's duplexer has now been checked and adjusted. Before and after images of the two VNA graphs are attached to these minutes. One line on each graph shows what the repeater's 448.65 MHz. receiver hears, at both frequencies, while the other line shows what the unit's 443.65 MHz. transmitter hears.

"Old Duplexer" shows how the old unit was tuned when it was removed on October 11. Note the receiver's 448.65 MHz. Insertion loss of 18.5 dB (terrible) and the rejection of the 443.65 transmission signal of 91 dB (excellent). This would explain why we were unable to detect any de-sensing of the receiver.

OldDuplexerRev" shows the re-tuned DB4072 Duplexer with the high-pass can attached. Note the receiver's 448.65 Insertion Loss of 2.6 dB (probably acceptable) and the 443.65 rejection of 83 dB (excellent).

After some discussion, it was felt that we should re-install the old unit to re-test its range and sensitivity. Based upon these results we could then decide whether to upgrade its power supply and simplify its wiring or look at other options..

EchoLink

Vince, VE3ELB has reconnected EchoLink to the repeater and has simplified the commands. An asterisk is no longer required to connect to EchoLink via UHF – merely key in the node number of the node to which you wish to connect.

Doug, VE3EES suggested that step-by-step instructions would be useful for members who live too far away to trigger the repeater. They are:

- (1) Obtain a microphone-equipped head set that you can plug into your computer's sound card.
- (2) Download the free EchoLink software from the EchoLink site at <http://www.echolink.org/>
- (3) Follow the instructions to provide a proof of ham license, then choose a password and validate your call sign and email address in the software.
- (4) .Activate the software and observe a list of continents in the LH panel. Click on "North America", then on "Canada" to see a list of several hundred active Canadian nodes, including your own call sign (since you have just logged in)..
- (5) Click on VE3NOR-R and you will be connected to our repeater. Vince, VE3ELB has made the bandwidth on this node sufficiently wide to allow for a net of up to six persons, plus however many additional users can access the repeater via UHF. You can alternatively access dozens of other repeaters.

John, VA3AAD suggested that we schedule a weekly Nortown net in which any out-of-town member can participate. This matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Ontario Bill 118

John, VA3MDJ will bring a certificate laminator to the next meeting in case members wish to make use of it. Members should carry in their glove compartments a copy of the legislation, which can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=9043&language=en>

Fox Hunt

VA3AAD, VE3IJS, VE3EES, VA3MDJ, VE3VNC and VA3EJF all volunteered to form two-person teams to participate in a 70 cm fox hunt organized by VE3EES, to be held in a large park or conservation area before mid-May, 2013. Two of the volunteers already

own directional antennas, so that just one additional antenna needs to be constructed. VE3EES will collect the necessary parts to make this an instructional construction project for his presentation for a Club meeting to be held in February or March 2013.

WAVE, WACAN Awards

Elliot, VA3EJF confirmed that the Club web site directs submissions to awards@ve3nar.org.

John, VA3AAD and John. VA3MDJ will hand over to Bert, VE3ENA their supply of certificates and awards correspondence. It was agreed that we will mail out certificates to claimants.

Holiday Festive Dinner

The dinner will now be held at the David Duncan House on Monday, December 3, 2012. Arrival time is between 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM, with dinner served at 8:00 PM. Tickets will cost \$45 per person and will be available at the next meeting. Dessert, wine and coffee will be extra and will be billed at the dinner..

This year, during the dinner, we will book a Friday evening date in December 2013.

December Club Meetings

There will be no Club meetings on December 7th or December 21st.

Fourth Annual “Garage Sale”

This sale will be held at the next meeting, on Friday, November 2nd

Members potentially have two kinds of surplus parts or equipment that they might like to sell or otherwise dispose of, but which are more substantial in value than the individual lots usually raffled off at Club meetings: These are:

1. More valuable items from which Club members would like to realize some cash - items that are perhaps worth more than \$40 or \$50, and
2. Less valuable items, or collections of items, that members would like to donate to the Club for auction, at the annual “Garage Sale”..

Members with items in the first of the above categories can offer them for sale on the Club web site or can determine whether Frans, VE3VNC can sell than at hamfests. In either case the Club will earn a 10% commission on the proceeds.

Items in the second category should be donated to the Club through the Nortown Garage Sale. Lots should be pre-packaged and brought to the November 2nd Club meeting, A silent auction will be held, with members writing down their bids on a sheet of paper that will be placed in front of each lot. At the end of the meeting, winners will deposit cash or checks equal to their final bids with Tom, VE3BKA, our Treasurer. Lots that are unsold will be handed over to Jim, VE3GRT, our Club’s raffle guru.

If any member has equipment for the sale and cannot attend the next meeting, John, VA3MDJ has volunteered to arrange for a pick-up. You can contact him at:

drjcarlisle@rogers.com

Future Presentations

November 2, 2012	Garage sale, no presentation
November, 16, 2012	Tom, VE3BKA Subject t.b.a.
January 4, 2013	John, VA3AAD, - Cavity Resonators.
February or March 2013	Doug, VE3EES Construction of a 70cm fox hunt antenna

Members are urged to take turns preparing presentations. John. VA3MDJ reminded everyone that a loose-leaf book with scores of potential topics is kept in the meeting room cupboard. Several members are available who can coach members in the rudiments of PowerPoint preparation, which is really quite easy and intuitive..

New Business

Financial

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$9.00. In VE3GRT's absence, there was no raffle.

Presentation

John, VA3MDJ gave a PowerPoint presentation (PDF copy attached) describing a simple but elegant way to enhance the gain of hand-held "rubber ducky" antennas.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, November 2nd at the Bayview Community Centre. The Annual Garage Sale will take the place of a presentation. Do remember to scour your workshop for suitable stuff.

John Shepherd
VA3AAD
and
John
VA3MDJ