



Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the October 5th, 2012 Meeting

Present:

John VA3MDJ
John VA3AAD
Bert VE3ENA

Jim VE3GRT
Doug VE3EES
Ron VA3GRE

Ian VE3IJS
Tom VE3BKA

Recent member-attendees who were absent:

Frans VE3VNC
Elliot VA3EJF
Vipi VE3PID

Geoff VE3GEG
Tony VE3VME

Vince VE3ELB
David VE3VNE

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting,

Old Business

Repeater

John, VA3AAD reported that sometime before the next meeting, the repeater will be moved from its current location to his QTH for testing, and that it will be replaced temporarily by our back-up unit. Although the back-up unit will not feature the "VE3NOR" announcement or the keypad test, members will be asked to assess its range and sensitivity. An email will be sent out to all members once this switch is made.

In the meantime, the regular unit's duplexer will be checked and other tests will be conducted to determine whether the receiver is being de-sensed.

EchoLink

VE3ELB advises that the EchoLink Internet connection is down temporarily, but should be operational in time for the next 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.e-ws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09366_e.htm

Fox Hunt

Doug, VE3EES stated that in order to have a meaningful hunt, we will need at least six participants in three cars. Members who are interested in taking part in such an event are asked to email Doug, before the next meeting, at:

douglas.lane@acn.net

WAVE, WACAN Awards

John, VA3MDJ will determine whether Elliot, VA3EJF can set up our web site so that applicants can email scanned copies of their QS cards to the Club, so that our Vice-President (Bert, E3ENA) can issue certificates.

Members are asked to bring to Bert any award-related files that they may have, so that everything can be kept at one location.

Holiday Festive Dinner

A Friday date in December is no longer available. 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. Dessert and coffee will be extra.

Ian, VA3IJS reported that he had received a \$40 donation from Tony, VE3VME who could not make last year's event. The donation is much appreciated and this year will go toward defraying the costs of draw prizes.

To confirm that we will have sufficient numbers to hold the dinner, members are asked to reserve by emailing Ian, VA2IJS, before the next meeting, at:

igshaw@sympatico.ca

Tickets will be on sale at the next meeting. This year, during the dinner, we will book a Friday evening date in December 2013.

December 7th Club Meeting

Because the annual dinner will be held on Monday, December 3rd, there was some discussion as to whether a December 7th meeting should be held. Members are asked to vote on this by emailing the Secretary, John, VA3AAD at:

john@eternalchaos.com

The matter will be decided at the next meeting on October 19th.

Fourth Annual “Garage Sale” (This matter was not discussed during the meeting)

Our annual “garage sale” will be held, NOT at the next meeting, but at the Friday, November 2nd meeting. As a reminder, past practice has been that:

Potentially, members 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..

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 them 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 raffle guru.

Future Presentations

October 19, 2012	John, VA3MDJ	“Hams Have a Tiger by the Tail.
November 2, 2012	Garage sale, no presentation	
November, 16, 2012	Tom, VE3BKA	Subject t.b.a.
December 4, 2012	whether this meeting will be held has yet to be determined	
Either December 4, 2012 or January 4, 2013, John, VA3AAD, - Cavity Resonators.		

Members are urged to contribute 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..

Bert, VE3ENA has donated to the Club a 110V-powered amplifier/speaker unit that can be used where a video has a sound track. This is now kept in the Club meeting room cupboard.

New Business

Computer Router “AC” and “N” Protocols

Doug, VE3EEs asked whether any members could enlighten him about the differences between various home modem/router protocols. Anyone who could assist him is asked to email him at:

Douglas.lane@acn/net

Financial

The meeting coffee collection yielded \$8.42 and the raffle \$7.00.

Presentation

Ian, VA3IJS gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on RTTY and PSK31 digital modes. A copy of the presentation is attached, along with these minutes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on October 19th at the Bayview Community Centre. John, VA3MDJ will be making \the presentation, subject t.b.a. Hope to see you there.

John Shepherd
VA3AAD
and
John
VA3MDJ