



## Nortown Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the Jan.3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 Meeting

### **Present:**

John VA3MDJ  
Tom VE3BKA  
Ian VE3IJS  
Ron VA3GRE

Bert VE3ENA  
John VA3AAD  
Doug VE3EES  
Tony VE3VME

David VE3VNE  
Jim VE3GRT  
Frans VE3VNC

### **Recent member-attendees who were absent:**

Geoff VE3GEG  
Raj Singh  
Vince VE3ELB

Vipi VE3PID  
Ryan Huang

Paul, VA3/VE3PGF  
Elliot VA3EJF

John, VA3MDJ chaired the meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **Repeater**

John, VA3AAD reported that the Club repeater is in good operating condition. Frans, VE3VNC noted that he could not trigger it from Unionville, but that he could from Steeles and Yonge. There also seem to be some weak spots along Bayview, North from Lawence to Steeles. It seems that we have good west-end coverage out to Brampton and Erin Mills, but marginal coverage North-East of the City. John, VA3MDJ suggested that after we get Echolink working, we should investigate linking with an East-end repeater.

The M120 radio that is now deaf on receive has yet to bere- programmed to transmit on 443.650, so that it can be used in the repeater to free up a radio for Echolink service. Hopefully, this will be done before the next meeting.

The Club continues to operate two brief nets on 443.650 (+5 MHZ. , PL 103.5), at 8:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (in addition to the Sunday 11:00 AM HF Net on 28.555 MHz). Participants should establish net control informally, based upon which Club member seems to have the clearest signal.

### **Field Day (no change)**

The 2014 Field Day will be held on the June 28-29 weekend. Please mark your calendars.

John, VA3MDJ reminded the meeting that a work party should meet ahead of the next Field Day to clean out some of the over-grown under-brush around the tower and Yagi storage area at Tom, VE3II's QTH.

### **Future Presentations**

Jan 17        Elliot, VA3EJF – subject TBA  
Feb, 7        Bert, VE3ENA 0 subject TBA

Teeth will be pulled at the next meeting, to enlist "volunteers" for future presentations.

John, VA3MDJ reminded members that presentations don't have to be extensive and that 10 minutes is quite sufficient. Subsequent discussions are often of much additional interest.

### **Club Annual Holiday Dinner**

Ian, VE3IJS reported that 16 people attended the December 2<sup>nd</sup> event at the David Duncan House on Don Mills Road. Three people were unable to attend at the last minute and donated their \$50 tickets to the Club. .Not including this \$150 windfall, profit from the event was \$2.53 Tom. VE3BKA confirmed that the \$150 sum will be shown in the Club books as voluntary contributions.

John, VA3MDJ thanked Ian for having organized the event.

### ***New Business***

#### **Financial**

Tom, VE3BKA presented the attached unaudited half--year financial statement for the period ending December 31, 2013.

The raffle collected \$7.25 and the coffee collection \$11.70.

Tony, VE3VME presented the auditor's report for the fiscal year August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013. He found the records to be in good order and fully consistent with the activities of the Club. He expressed appreciation to Tom, VE3BKA, Treasurer, for his excellent work. On behalf of the Club, John, VA3MDJ, President, thanked Tony for carrying out this important task.

### **Club Equipment List**

John, VA3AAD presented a draft update of the Club Equipment List (attached) that shows all the equipment owned by the Club, along with its location. He asked members to identify any errors or omissions.

Doug, VE3EES asked whether a missing 6 meter radio had ever been located. He believed that it might have been in the possession of Ken Wren, vA3KW. John, VA3MDJ stated that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to locate this radio several years ago and that it had been removed from the list.

Doug also asked about the whereabouts of the Club library of radio-related book that he believed had been held by Albert Costello, who now may be a SK.

At the request of John, VA3MDJ, Doug agreed that he would try to track down these items.

### **Joan Powell, VE3ZC**

John, VA3AAD noted that the last email to Joan, a long-time Honorary Club member, living in Ottawa, had bounced back and that the call sign is now listed under another name. Canada 411 lists six J. Powell's in the Ottawa area. He asked whether any members on this email distribution list had any further information about Joan.

### **Steve Wright VE7CT.**

John, VA3AAD reported that the Club had received a Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> letter from Steve asking for a donation to support his Jan/Feb 2014 DX-pedition to French-owned Amsterdam Island in the Indian Ocean. It was agreed that the Club would not support this request.

**Presentation**

John, VA3MDJ gave an excellent presentation about HF propagation parameters and described a small informative “gadget” for Windows Vista, 7 or 8, that can be run on a computer desktop, and that displays and automatically updates a number of these solar and terrestrial parameters that are useful for predicting conditions. The “gadget” can be downloaded from <http://www.hamqst.com/solar.html>. A summary sheet describing various functions displayed on the “gadget” is attached to the minutes. Unfortunately, John’s outstanding video presentation cannot be attached to these minutes because the file size is too large to attach to an email.

Your Secretary intends to ask our webmaster, Elliot, VA3EJF, who was not present at the meeting, whether John’s presentation can be put onto the Club web site and made available for download.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Elliot, VA3EJF will handle the presentation, subject TBA.

John; VA3AAD

and

John, VA3MDJ