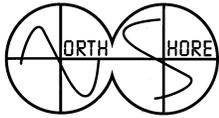


NORTH SHORE ARC



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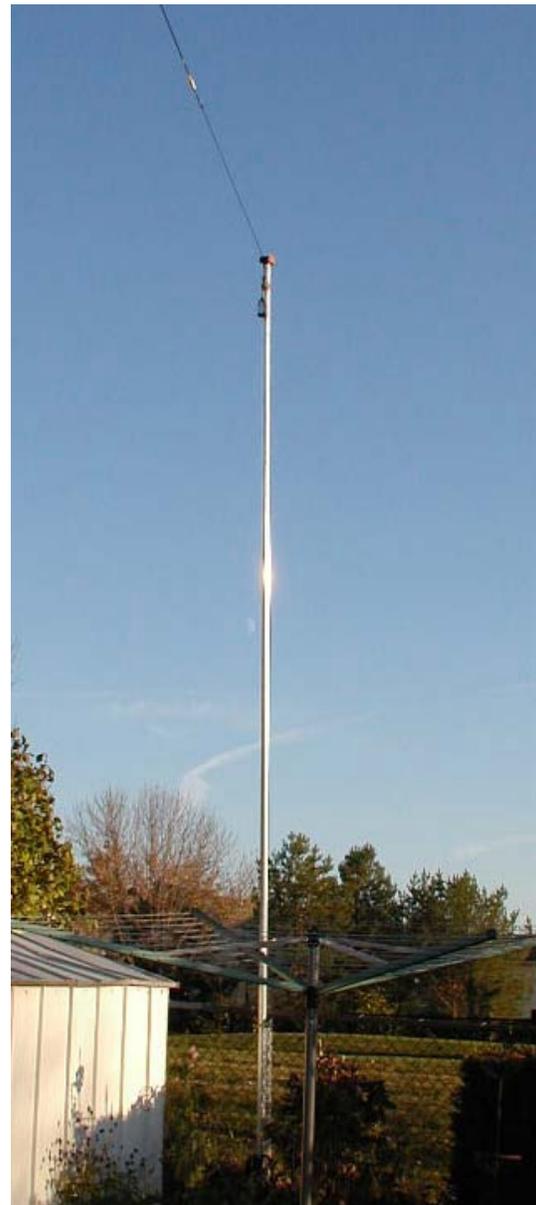
Don't forget the Wednesday Evening Net.

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The tale of two masts, or the Good, the Bad and my Wife thinks they're both Ugly.

I've enjoyed the warm weather. I'm still not sure about spring in December. Nor am I all that happy with spring in January. After all this is Canada. We're supposed to have 4 seasons. I'm concerned that because there is only so much warmth or cold allocated to a given year, we might end up with a cold dry summer or worse yet a cold wet summer. Any way this is great weather for antenna work. My 20-foot piece of aluminum pipe is up at the back of the yard. That's the "good" mast. It has 2 internal halyards and the pulleys work really well as long as there is sufficient load on the lines. It replaced the "old" mast that topped out at 10 feet and wasn't really helping matters much. Of course the aluminum siding on the house is what started the whole mast thing to begin with. It's amazing how much siding can mess up a match. At least it is to me. The change in my 20M results was most pleasing. I showed my wife the new and improved mast. Her comment was that it was an eyesore "just like the other one". The old mast was retired to the garage until it was rejuvenated as the "bad" mast that is temporarily holding up the other end of my 50 foot long wire as well as my 2M J-pole.

The "good" mast.....



Granted, it isn't as cool as the good mast, but it does the trick. The issue of the standoff insulator for the feed-wire was re-opened when Peter VA3QW, pointed out that another chunk of steel that close to the feed-wire could be a problem. My solution was to use an old and extremely beat up CB antenna found by the roadside to solve the problem. The remnants of the wire and plastic were removed that the broken end trimmed back. With a couple of UV resistant ty-wraps we were in business.

The long-wire tuner is mounted on the wall under the eaves. I showed my triumph of engineering, garbage collecting and junk reusing to my wife. Not that I was looking for a complement mind you. Realistically, I was just trying to show her that keeping all of this stuff around is not only wise, it saves money. The comment was "and how long will this 'thing' be up for". That's a paraphrase.... The word "eyesore" was in the flood of words again. Hey, at least I'm consistent and I'm back on HF.

Ken
VE3RMK

ps: This work has been done for a while, but in the spirit of true HAMming, I took my last picture of the antenna work when it was snowing. I hope to keep up the tradition of working of antennas in the cold and snow for some time to come.

+++++

Just in case you got funds for Christmas.

I met Jami from Durham Radio in the Oshawa Loblaws. It's good to see him up and around again. He was relating how the prices are coming down. I can attest to that. My funding is somewhat limited, but there are a couple of things on my list that just got a lot closer to my shack. Check it out. It's worth the visit.

The Ugly-Mast.....



+++++

From the Chair in the Shack

A Happy New Year to all. As I sit here in the shack, I'm surrounded by Christmas goodies and having a ball despite the poor band conditions. As most of you are aware, the US has granted SSB privileges down to 3600 KHz to become effective at some time soon. If you hear any American stations on these frequencies, please refrain from telling them off. There appears to be confusion about when they are legal - but pointing out the truth will likely only aggravate them if they are unaware of the effective date of implementation.

As reported at the party, several large items have been ordered and paid for. Now all we need is the final approval so that we can have pads prepared for the new repeater site. Trenching and wiring will wait until spring as will the actual move.

In regards to my letter in TCA, I have talked with Matt in Quebec and find that he was unaware that he had offended us. Nevertheless, it gave NSARC a chance to brag nationally. To all of you, who make it such a good club, thanks very much. Pat yourselves on the back for all you do.

73 de Pete

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Extra, extra, read all about it.

From the January / February TCA

I don't know many of you look forward to getting the TCA. I sure do! As a relative newcomer to the hobby, it's important to me to see what is going on in other parts of the country. Of particular interest to me are the areas that I'd like to talk to and might even get a chance to visit. So this month's edition was particularly interesting was I saw the Club's "Name in Lights" twice. Peter writes about his letter to our

colleague in VE2 land who didn't think there were HAMS in Oshawa. I thought it was a great letter.

Now the real bonus is the article on page 51. Here our VP of Field Services not only mentions the Club again. He gives us a pat on the back. Pay close attention to the first 4 paragraphs under the heading "Public Service Reports Important to Amateur Radio". Our Club PSA is shown on page 52. Our member's call signs are listed there for the whole country to see, along with the work we did supporting our community. We need to support the group that supports us. I need your input for the PSAs.

Your humble, happy scribe.

Ken
VE3RMK

New Products

Alinco DJ-V17T 2m 5W HT



Features 200 memories, CTCSS encode/decode, selectable tone burst, VFO, memory and scan modes. waterproof materials compatible to IPX7 standard. Wire cloning capability. Free software available for download from Alinco. Full 5W output.

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The Sangean H201 offers great reception and sound in a water resistant portable radio that's just as happy in the shower as it is on a boat. Built in flashlight, clock with sleep timer and emergency buzzer.



Only \$99.95

Garmin Zumo 550 - Rugged Motorcycle GPS

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Winter Specials

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Features 100 memory channels, built-in CTCSS/DCS encode/decode and tone burst, three scan modes, alphanumeric channel labels, direct frequency input, large backlit display and keypad, Cross-band split operation and more! Includes high-power NiMH battery (4.5W output VHF/4W UHF)

Reg. \$299.00 Sale \$259.97

Kenwood TMD-700A Dual Band Mobile



Features a built-in TNC to offer a wide range of data communications options. A favourite amongst APRS fans. Ultra-wide RX from 118 to 1300 MHz, 200 memory channels, cross-band repeat, dual receive, CTCSS encode/decode & 1750 Hz tone burst. Includes detachable front panel kit.

Reg. \$799.00 Sale \$658.97

Kenwood TH-K2AT 2m HT



A rugged simple-to-use 2m transceiver with all of the most popular features including CTCSS encode/decode, 1750 Hz tone burst, auto repeater offset, weather alert, multiple scan modes and more. Full 5W output! Includes an 1100 mAh Ni-MH battery.

Reg. \$199.00 Sale \$189.97

MFJ-336M Triple Magnet



This NMO style mount features three 5" magnets and has enough holding power to support large mobile antennas like the EX510BNMO. Includes 17' of coax with PL connector.

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MFJ-962D High Power Tuner



The MFJ962D provides an extremely wide matching range with continuous coverage from 1.8 to 30 MHz including MARS and WARC bands. Two transmitting tuning capacitors and MFJ's exclusive AirCore roller inductor gives you precise control to get your SWR down to an absolute minimum. Handles up to 800 Watts PEP SSB output.

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