

NORTH SHORE ARC



Box 171, Oshawa, ON, Canada, L1H 7L1
www.osha.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc



Volume 8 , Number 1

May 2007

Don't forget the Wednesday Evening Net.

From Will VA3WEW and Howie VE3TYQ.

Our Club net is on 147.120 + at 8PM local time every Wednesday. Plan to be there.

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June ARES meeting Saturday June 9th at 09:00 EDT.

The meeting will be held at the Ajax Fire Station. We will be discussing the September field exercise, our emergency plan, and the Standard Operating Guidelines that have been created. For those who were unable to attend the May meeting, you can get a copy of our 2006 Annual Report.

Photo ID cards will be handed out to those who have already had their pictures taken. We will also be able to take additional photos.

Durham ARES also needs to update our membership information. You will be receiving an email asking you to confirm the information we have about you. Please respond to that email with any corrections or updates.

I look forward to seeing all of you there.

VE3GIH Gord Hewit
ARES Durham Region
Asst. Emerg. Coord. - Planning
416-779-3740 cell

During emergencies, my email address is
VE3GIH@winlink.org

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Facility Relocation Project Update

From the Project Team

The work at the site has passed a major milestone. On May 14th the trench for the electrical service from the CLOCA building and the Generator Shed to the Repeater Building was dug, inspected, and completed.

Using the measure twice cut once methodology the cable run lengths were set to insure connections could be easily made.

The purchase of the cables, conduit and related supplies was done in advance as much as possible.

Preparation for the work included the grass cutting of the area surrounding the buildings so vehicles could park close to where the work is being done.

At this point the exterior work at the site is almost complete.

We expect that the remainder of the electrical work related to the trenches and conduit will be completed today or tomorrow in the event of rain.

Special thanks to the following for their efforts on behalf of the Club:

VE3VGJ, VE3VCY, VE3LLE, VE3TYQ, VE3CRK, VE3PWH, VE3RMK.

We now have to focus on preparations for the finishing of the electrical work.

This involves the installation of the plywood and drywall in the repeater building. There is painting to do and cleanup of the buildings to tackle. We also have to install the generator, associated panels switches, fixtures and outlets. It is our expectation and the final electrical inspection will be completed around month end.

The Club will have to pay close attention to the expenses as we continue the project. Prices of some components such as copper have risen by as much as 60%. Even with excellent discount structures from the vendors we are facing substantially higher costs.

The Project Team is continuing to look for opportunities to save costs without sacrificing safety or the quality of the installation. After all this is a communications facility that is intended for service in times of need, or worse.....

As a Club we all have to work together to insure that we are able to meet the challenges and support the health of the Club going forward.

Please consider how you can assist. As we approach the move of the repeater components proper we are going to require many hands.

We'll continue with these reports as we reach the coming milestones.

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WANTED

From Brian VA3BAH

Cheap Room to Rent or Roommates to Share

I'm a slightly off the wall, open minded, non smoking male on a limited budget who is house broken, can cook, cleans up after himself and puts the seat down. Furthermore, I'm also a multi-faceted individual who appreciates diversity; enjoys stimulating conversation, but values and respects one's space and privacy.

?????? Interested ??????

Contact Brian A. Hopkins via email: b_hopkins@hotmail.com or call me via Skype (www.skype.com) my user name is VA3BAH

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From the Chair in the Shack

Well folks, the year is just about over with VE3OSH well on its way to being moved. Let's all hope that it works better from the new location. It has been a long haul but the end is at least in sight along with a celebration party.

Set aside some time for Camp X this year please. We need you operating and explaining radio to visitors. It really is enjoyable. Bring a lawn chair so that you can rest between jobs.

At the most recent South Pickering meeting, there was a great deal of chatter about how to attract new hams. We have been watching a slow decline in the number of active hams for ten years or more and, without some help, our precious hobby/service is in scary shape. Not only is the number of active hams down but attendance at flea markets is down as well. We need to be thinking in terms of what actions we can take to make the hobby better known and attractive to those who might enjoy it as we do.

Regarding hamfests, several points became clear. First, the quality of merchandise is going down as eBay and

the Ontario Swap siphon off the best transceivers and establish high prices at the same time. Second, those high prices drive new hams to the purchase of new equipment which often performs as well or better than some of the 20 year old radios at very nearly as low a price. Third, As interest in the hobby wanes (Internet, cell phones, computers take their share of time and the bands are pretty noisy) hams are less likely to buy stuff. We need to find alternate sources of funding and fast.

This year's event saw a decline in buyers and in vendor numbers. We will be taking about \$1,000 for each club but that is not what we are used to. There is no reason to quit the field since it represents an evening and morning for most of our members and it is kind of fun. Nevertheless, the days of 70% of our funds coming from the event are gone for now. Put on your caps and dream up something we can use for fundraising will you?

Last and most important for this month is the upcoming World Radio Conference. Our delegates already live in the cheapest hotels for this event and sometimes are forced to pay some of their own expenses. This is the time at which a good fight saves our amateur locations and we need the very best people. Fortunately, we have them. Now all we need to do is contribute to RAC's Defense of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) to help fund this exercise. It is extremely easy to do when you renew online or when you renew by mail. Check the DARF lists of contributors and you will see familiar callsigns. Why not join them?

73 de Pete

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I trust that all of you are looking forward to the summer months. Not only is this an exciting time for the Club, but we also have the increase in outdoor and leisure time activities to look forward to. Please take time to think about safety in everything you do.

One of the things that we notice is how being tired can affect our judgement. Being overtired can have "really bad" consequences.

Yesterday at the site we all got good and tired. Those of us who were working spent the extra time to talk about what we were doing because as we got to the end of the day and the trench was covered in, one slip up could have meant having to fig everything up and starting again.

Some organizations refer to this as "a questioning attitude", "conservative decision making" and 3-way communications".

I am reminded of the old engineering maxim: "Measure with micrometer, mark with chalk, cut with axe". The care we take in the early stages saves grief and aggravation in the later stages.

Your humble scribe.

Ken
VE3RMK

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Tel: (905) 665-5466 Fax: (905) 665-5460

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