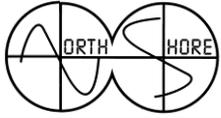


NORTH SHORE ARC



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<http://www.ve3osh.com/>



Volume 8 , Number 1

September 2009

Keep an eye on the Sky

From Joe VE3VGJ



Aug. 22, 2009 - St. Catharines, ON www.OntarioStorms.com

www.ontariostorms.com

The recent storms have provided many opportunities to see the wonder of Nature. This is a good site to check on every so often. How many of us need to brush up on what we learned in our Canwarn training?

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Ham Radio and Scanners - Part 1

By Dave VA3DBJ

Communications in Durham has change considerably, in the last 10 years. What was once based on a conventional 1 to 6 channel repeater system has grown into multiple complex trunk

systems. Conventional systems still operate, in a wide range of services. From taxis and delivery services, to now railway, utility and marine traffic. These services operate in two primary areas, in the VHF and UHF bands.

The VHF-HI band runs roughly from 108 to 175 MHz, which is usually covered by the general scanner. Within this range, there are still a lot to listen to and should continue to operate for some time.

108 -137 MHz Aeronautical band

Comprising aircraft, air traffic control, ground support, company air to ground communications and the military. The normal mode here is generally AM, but there are some FM/NFM traffic here. (120.100 Oshawa Airport)

137-138 MHz Satellite

Here you will find weather satellites and geostationary satellite beacons. (137.62 NOAA satellites)

138-144 MHz Public Safety and Commercial

This area was once set aside for primary public safety usage. The police and regional police in Ontario were all in this area at one point. Most have now migrated to the 800 MHz area, but there are still some here. The Ontario public safety, via GMCP, has upgraded to the, state of the art Motorola system, but they have reused the channels that were given up by those who moved to the 800 MHz. (142.770 Police Common)

144 – 148 MHz Amateur Radio

The amateur radio operators, or HAMS, use this part of the spectrum for general and emergency use. In this area you will find the largest non-commercial repeater system in North America. With the addition of the internet, a good portion of these repeaters are now linked, so it is not so unusual to hear someone from Durham talking to someone in L.A. or Miami. If that was out of this world, you will also hear voice and data from orbiting satellites and even signals bounded off the moon. (147.120 Ah. Oh yeah VE3OSH)

148 – 156 MHz Land/Mobile/Commercial

This area is full of everything else. Taxis, delivery, trucking, government, fire departments and so on. This area is highly congested and will more than likely be the area that will benefit the most when the TV service has moved. (150.100 MOH Common)

156 – 163 MHz Marine/Railway

Marine traffic and railways operate in this area. So if you want to listen to yacht's, coast guard, heavy carriers and the like, just scan the 156 to 162 MHz. From 160 to 163 MHz you will hear the railway communications and the 7 weather channels. (156.80 Marine Distress - 161.535 CP Mainline)

163 – 175 MHz Land/Mobile/Commercial

Again, here is more of everything else, as with the 148 - 156 part of the spectrum. (168.96 Durham Region Works)

This VHF area was and still is a highly congested area of radio spectrum, and if you are looking for a particular radio user, this is usually the first place to look. The VHF-LO (25-108 MHz) band is not used as much as it once was. Here you will still find users that require distant communications, without the need of expensive repeaters. Provincial Parks, Ontario Hydro, Amateur Radio, and some trucking companies still operate here. If you don't find them here, then there is the UHF band. This will be covered next.

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Field Day 2009: A good time was had by all.....



Good weather, good food, good friends, good radio.

+++++

It was nice to have summer finally arrive for the last couple of weeks. While it was short, it was worth it. This past weekend reminded us of what a wonderful time summer can be. Now with that 'golden tinge' to the sunlight and the lengthening shadows we remember what is waiting in the shack. Europe is coming in like gangbusters. I heard MIOSAI from Northern Ireland on 20M at a solid 5-9. I wish I could have broken through the pileup. California was loud later in the evening. May the memories of a warm, comfortable shack spur you to get those last few little antenna jobs done. Remember our Clubs commitment to public service. Remember the meetings coming up. Remember ARES. Work at filling the log.

Your humble scribe,

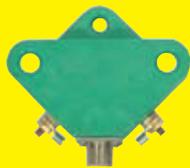
Ken
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