



# Monthly Update

## June 2018

### June Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, June 19, 6:00pm  
Where: Purple Woods Conservation Area – the repeater site

**BBQ!!! – Come hungry, bring a lawn chair, an Amateur that is not a member of North Shore or someone who is interested in radio and some finger food snacks to compliment the BBQ. Our guests just need to bring a chair.**

If you missed last months meeting then you missed a great presentation by Vic Loewen VE3JAR on his remote station setup. Vic is working the world from the comfort of his apartment.



Vic VE3JAR

### Hammo-Can

While browsing the internet this past month I cam across an interesting site with some real neat products. Check out the Hammo Can from QSRadio.com. This would be a great outfit to have for emergency use as it is all in one nice package and ready to go. Perhaps there are some of us that would even want to get together, source some parts, and build our own. Let me know if you are interested.



### CLOCA Annual Firefly Night Hike

CLOCA is having their Annual Firefly Night Hike at Purple Woods on Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. It is a guided event and CLOCA staff will be present for it. CLOCA



would like to invite members of the North Shore ARC to attend the hike and will also be serving up some ice cream and fresh strawberries for those interested! Sounds like this could be quite enchanting.



### Hamfest Update

We recently had a wrap up meeting for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Durham Hamfest. Glenn VE3GAR, our Hamfest treasurer, reported that we were literally within a few dollars of last year's event. We will have more details at our next club meeting at White Cliffe in October. Thank you, again, to all the great volunteers that helped make this year's event another resounding success!

### Repeater Update

A lot of progress has been made at the repeater site. The guys have been working on getting rid of old equipment that is not needed and Jeffrey VA3RTV and Jimmy VE3SOI are making new controller cables for the All Star link. There were some issues with the existing cables and it was causing a hum on the repeater among other things. As of the typing of this update they do not have the cables completed yet but I am sure they will give us an update at the upcoming club meeting. In the mean time you will not be able to access the repeater via the internet on your phone or computer but this short-term downtime will pay dividends in the long run.

### Field Day

Field Day is coming up the weekend immediately following the BBQ and is also held at Purple Woods. CLOCA has an event



Steve VA3TPS working some digital mode at Field Day

running at Purple Woods on Friday so we will not have access until after 4pm for those that like to come to set up a bit early. Most people show up at about 9am on Saturday to setup and actual operating runs from 2pm Saturday to 2pm Sunday. If you are available to help out with the setup and take down I am sure an extra set of hands would be appreciated. We are planning on running four stations again this year. Remember, during Field Day anyone can operate the radios as we will have Amateurs on site supervising. So, if you have never operated HF, or any band for that matter, come on out, key the microphone, and be prepared to get addicted to Amateur Radio.

### Tuesday Night Rag Chew



Our Tuesday night rag chews are getting quite popular. It is not uncommon to have 10 to 15 check-ins and a lively roundtable. Some can only stick around for a few minutes while others are there from start to finish. We never know what the topic de jour will be but someone always comes up with something. So, if you are available between 1900 and 2000hr on Tuesdays pop onto OSH and join the conversation.

### Wednesday Night Face-to-Face

As well as the Tuesday night rag chew on the repeaters there is quite a crew that meet at the Tim Horton's at King and Wilson at about 8pm every Wednesday. It actually gets quite crazy as we discuss all things radio, update our digital radios with the latest code plugs and generally have a good time. If you are in the area on Wednesday night, and have a few minutes to spare, we would definitely enjoy your company. This is open to anyone whether you are a member of the North Shore ARC or not. On a recent Wednesday night Bob VE3HIX and Jeffrey VA3RTV brought in an SWR meter and SMA antenna mount and we tested the various handheld antennas for performance. It was surprising that some of the antennas on the low-cost radios actually beat out some of the big brands. See what you are missing if you are not coming out!?



Bob VE3HIX and Jeffrey VA3RTV

## Saturday Breakfast

If you are not tired of chatting or meeting up with club members during the week then you will be interested to know that there is a group that meets on Saturday morning for breakfast at Johnny's Original Eatery. The restaurant is located in the plaza on the northwest corner of King and Thornton. Members and families usually start to arrive at about 8:30am.



## Saturday Coffee Break

The Whitby ARC hosts a coffee break every Saturday afternoon. They meet at the Blue Sea Fish and Chips located at 836 Brock St. N in Whitby from 2pm to 4pm. All Amateurs are welcome.



We are looking for a person, or a group of people, that would be willing to bring the snacks to our monthly meetings at White Cliffe. It is an easy job as all you need to do is stop by a grocery store and pick up a couple packs of fresh cookies and bring them to the meeting. Just give the receipt to the treasurer and you will be reimbursed promptly. Thank you for considering taking on this roll.

## Mystery Guest

For those coming out to the BBQ on Tuesday night we are going to have the honour of having one of our old members, and his family, with us. I won't give away who this is but I will give you a clue in that this Amateur will have come from out of town...waaaaaay out of town. The newer members will not know him but those who have been around for five years or more will be pleasantly surprised. It will be fun catching up on all the latest and refreshing old friendships.



## Repeater Shack Cleanup

Great strides have been made in cleaning up the repeater shack. The repeater crew has done a stellar job and we were able to get our internet provider to clean up their equipment as well. We had an extra rack enclosure that we offered to them and they did a real nice job making it all nice and tidy. Here are some before and after pictures of their cleanup. It should be pretty self explanatory!



Website – [ve3osh.com](http://ve3osh.com)

## Hotspots, Amplifiers and External Antennas

A few people have been wondering what the guidelines are around the use of DMR hotspots with power amplifiers and external antennas. So, I fired off an email to RAC to get some clarification on the legality of this. Below is what I received from RAC:

*I assume we are talking about amateur-to-amateur communications using amateur frequencies. If so, the power limits are the same as they are for other modes. An Advanced certificate is needed for homebrew or modified amplifiers, but Basic-only amateurs may use commercial amplifiers up to 190 watts carrier power. There is a requirement for an Advanced certificate to set up a same-band voice repeater, i.e. one that receives and transmits simultaneously on the same band, but a simplex node that connects to a network over the Internet and uses the network to connect to other nodes or repeaters at other locations is not itself a repeater and doesn't have this requirement.*

*Although a simplex node is not a repeater and doesn't require an Advanced certificate, the frequency it uses should be coordinated with other amateur repeaters, nodes and other fixed-frequency stations, and this is normally done by the same frequency coordinating group that coordinates repeaters*

*Richard Ferch VE3KI, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Radio Amateurs of Canada*

So, it appears that this is possible to do as long as you stay within the confines of your particular licence level and get a co-ordination from WNYSORC so you do not cause interference to others.

## QRM from the Shack



Hey, summer is almost here and that means it is time for our annual BBQ at the repeater site! I am looking forward to seeing you all there and please remember to invite other Amateurs, who are not members of the North Shore ARC, and friends who are interested in radio to come out and join us. The more the merrier. Joe VE3VGJ will be manning the grill with his trusty sidekick Doug VA3DCE and Martha is arranging all the burgers, sausages, buns etc. A lot of behind the scenes work goes into this event so please make sure you extend a word of thanks to the crew.

We are in need of some drinks for the BBQ. We would like to have a case of water (24 bottles) and a couple cases of pop (24 cans times 2 cases or 12 cans time 4 cases for a variety of flavors). I will pick up a couple of small cases of diet pop unless someone else would like to. So, if we have three people that would each like to bring one case, or two small cases, that would be fantastic. Ideally, you would bring them in a cooler with ice. So, if you are able to help out with this please let me (Laird – [ve3lks@yahoo.ca](mailto:ve3lks@yahoo.ca)) know what you can bring so I can make sure the drinks are covered off.

Much has transpired at the repeater site the last few months. The repeater guys have done some spring cleaning so the shack is looking very respectable and much work has gone into improving the performance of the Fusion repeaters. I am sure that Jeffrey VA3RTV, Bob VE3HIX, Lex VE3LEX, Clint VA3KDK and Jimmy VE3SOI will be at the BBQ and would be happy to explain and show you what has been taking place.

If anyone knows of someone who has an interesting presentation please let me know as I would like to start scheduling the October and November speakers. September is our Sermon on the Mount Corn Roast and BBQ and December will be our annual Christmas potluck.

Well, that is it for now. Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday evening!

**73 de Laird VE3LKS**

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