

Monthly Update

July 2018

September Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, Sep 18, 6:00pm

Where: Purple Woods Conservation Area – the repeater site

Sermon on the Mount – Corn Roast and BBQ! – Just like our June BBQ you need to 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 corn roast. Hey, if you have any unique items that you would like to show off throw them in the car and bring them out too.

If we could have a few people bring drinks that would be wonderful. Please let Laird VE3LKS know which of the four items you would like to bring. Ideally they would be in a cooler with ice but we can work around that if needed.

- 1 case of water
- 1 case of 24 – cola
- 1 case of 24 – mixed
- 2 case of 12 – diet pop



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.

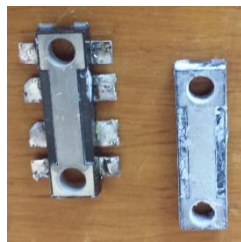
Repeater Update – 440 Fusion Died Again

Jeffrey VA3RTV replaces Dual FET RF Final. Obtains and installs a robust fan!

by Jimmy Fernandes VE3SOI

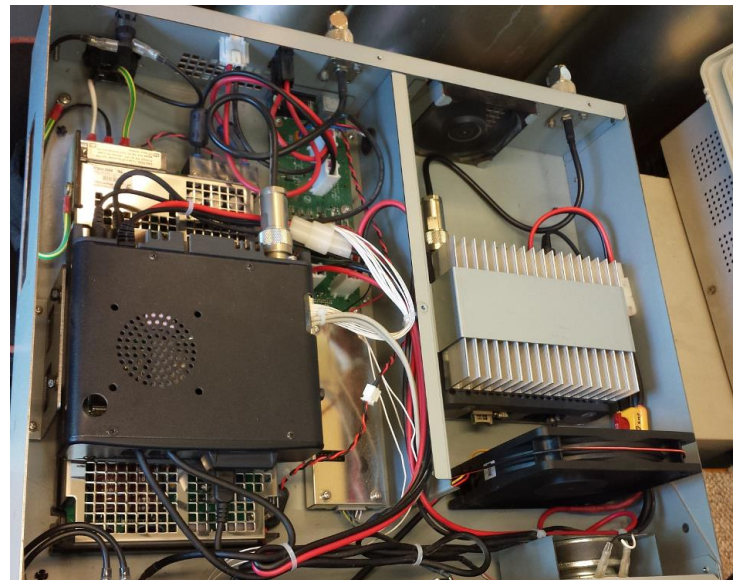
The skies looked ominous as VE3NAA regained yet another lease on its life. I hear thunder in the clouds now.

It was determined that the RF Final stage in VE3NAA was no longer working. The dual FET chip had given up its smoke yet again.



Using good judgement, **Jeffrey** did not want to use excessive heat to the board where the RF Final amplifier rests. Hence, a Dremmel tool was used to cut the legs off the chip, thereby making it easy to remove using little heat. A new RF final amplifier was/is installed now.

A new 12VDC fan was obtained and we tested its operation right out of the box. All OK. Took UHF Repeater cover off and set it aside. Installed fan upright so that air could flow across heat sink fins.



Removed inline 10A fuse and placed ammeter in series. Before I could say Jack Robinson, **Jeffrey** split a fuse in half and we then fashioned some wire to connect an ammeter in the place of the fuse.





Checked Repeater quiescent current draw and found it to be around **300mA DC**. **QUIESCENT = 0.3A** – Receiver just receiving and transmitter inactive.



Checked Repeater current draw at **LOW (4 to 5 Watts)** power settings. **LOW = 2.64A** when transmitter actuated.



Checked Repeater current draw at **MIDDLE (25 Watts)** power settings. **MEDIUM = 4.69A** when transmitter actuated.



Checked Repeater current draw at **HIGH (50 Watts)** power settings. **HIGH = 7.69, 7.70A** when transmitter actuated.



Jeffrey VA3RTV doing his magic with the Fusion repeater.

Performed tests and with help from **Bob VE3HIX** from his radio shack location, concluded that VE3NAA now operating well. It was determined that VE3NAA be left at **MEDIUM** power.

Installed repeater back on rack and ALL operational tests were successful.

Repeater Update – Generator Issues

As well, during Field Day our generator failed to kick on when the area was hit by that three hour power outage. The crew were able to switch it manually, so all was good, but they will be doing some more analysis and testing to make sure it functions normally the next time there is a power outage.

Repeater Update – Ventilation Fan

On one of the trips to the repeater it was discovered that the ventilation fan unit, for the repeater shack itself, was having some issues. The existing fan unit was actually four fans, connected to 220v power no less, arranged in a square pattern blowing out one of the ventilation holes. Well, one fan decided that it would blow the opposite way so we had three fans blowing out and one blowing in. **Joe VE3VGJ** just happened to have an industrial grade fan, that runs on 110v, that he quickly made a mount for and installed in the shack. This fan, although slightly smaller in size than the previous four-fan unit, is actually pushing more air out of

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the shack than the previous unit. He tested the air pressure in the shack, with both the old fan unit and the new fan unit, and there was an improvement. **Joe** also



Joe VE3VGJ installing the new fan and thermo controller.

connected a thermostat to the fan so it will not run continuously but shut down when the shack is not warm. Thank you to **Larry Whitney SWL** (affectionately nicknamed Tall Larry) for helping **Joe** with the installation process.

Field Day

Field Day has come and gone but what a fun event. First off, a big Thank You to **Martha VA3SD** who once again organized Field Day. **Martha** has been overseeing this event for many years and has it down to a science but it still deserves accolades when it goes off so well. **Clint VA3KDK** also did a lot of work, especially with the meal preps so a tip of the hat to **Clint** too. There were many more who came out to help setup, take down, operate stations, bring supplies, and even just drop by to observe. Funny how the observers always seemed to show up when a meal was ready. Hmmmm. All joking aside, it was great to have so many members and guests pop in.

Speaking of special guests, we had some notable ones come out for a visit. A young lady, **Charlotte Taylor**, popped in on Sunday. **Charlotte's** father, **Ed Taylor VE3FRM**, was a former member of the North Shore and some of our seasoned members remembered **Ed** fondly. She also made the mistake of showing **Jeffrey VA3RTV** and **Bob VE3HIX** some pictures of her Dad's shack. She was then stuck listening to them name each radio by name and model, sometimes with a year due to a defining feature, and whether it was a transistor or tube (or in **Jeffrey's** case, a valve) type radio. **Charlotte** is working on getting her ticket and hopes to be out at the Sermon on the Mount.

As well, **John Henry**, the mayor of Oshawa and a nominee to fill the regional chair position for Durham, came by and had a good discussion. Apparently, the city is actively looking at moving the last remaining Camp X building to the Military Museum at the Airport. This would be an excellent place for this as the museum, with the tank restoration facility, is becoming quite a tourist destination and would offer a great opportunity to showcase the work of Camp X. An offer was extended, by the club, to provide any assistance needed when they get to the point of setting up radio equipment.

Not only did we have visitors dropping by to see what we were doing but we had guest operators stop by and work the stations too. **Dennis VE3HYJ**, of the South Pickering ARC, came out several times over the weekend to help with the CW station. I am amazed with anyone that can work CW and with **Bob VE3HIX** and **Dennis** going at it the contacts kept piling up. **Ralph VE3CRK** was kept quite busy with the logging.

Field Day operations took place at Purple Woods Conservation Area and we had use of the CLOCA building giving us gorgeous views overlooking southern Durham Region and Lake Ontario. Overall, I think everyone had a great time. We had two stations setup inside the building and two in tents on the periphery. Even though we were supposed to be 4A, meaning four stations running on generator, one station failed and did not make any contacts. In preliminary discussions for next year have kicked around the idea of having all four stations inside the building. It is quite a large facility so each station really would not disturb each other even though all stations would be in the same room. With sliding doors that open on each side the stations could also easily move out under the overhangs if the weather was nice. There is ample room to set up four HF antennas without much fear of interference and we could even put all the generators in one section and possibly consolidate a couple of them. Since this location would potentially be a communication centre in the time of a real emergency we might as well use Field Day to work on how we would configure it for such an event.

The highlight of the weekend was when the power, everywhere north of Taunton Rd in Oshawa, was cut for about three hours, including our Purple Woods site, and was cast into complete darkness. After some immediate concerns calmness returned when it was realized that this is what Field Day truly is about. We still had

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a sheltered facility to work out of. We were still using our own generators to run all the stations. Our repeater shack and network centre had backup power once the generator kicked in. The fireflies in the meadow and forest were putting on a great light show. About the only thing that we did not have was lights in the parking lot, running water and flush toilets. In a prolonged power outage we could manage the latter two issues by simply bringing in a supply of water. **Martha VA3SBD** our quartermaster, had plenty of food and drinking water on hand so we were set.

The one glitch in the whole power failure incident was that our backup generator for the repeater did not kick on automatically the way it is designed to. It has worked in previous failures but decided not to play nicely during this one. Fortunately, **Bob VE3HIX**, **Jeffrey VA3RTV** and **Clint VA3KDK** were at the site so they could get a good firsthand look at the situation instead of having to work on hearsay.

Thanks, again, to all those that help make Field Day 2018 a resounding success.

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



Bob VE3HIX and Jeffrey VA3RTV

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!?

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.



As well, if there is work to be done at the repeater site on a Saturday morning you will quite often find a large crowd at White Feather Farms, which opens at 8:30am, enjoying coffee, breakfast and maybe even one of their amazing, freshly baked, apple fritters. Just give a shout on the repeater between 8:00 and 8:20 to see if anyone is heading up that way and come and join us if we are.

QRM from the Shack



Did we ever have a great kick off to the summer! According to the sign in sheet we had 29 members and 14 visitors out to the June BBQ. I think there may have even been a few more that did not sign in. We even had visitors from as far away as Vietnam and the Philippines. It sure was great to have **Walter Cang VA3WYC** and his family join us on their vacation back to Canada. We also had a delightful young



Steve VA3TPS and Walter VA3WYC

lady, **Erin Boshart**, drop in to see what was going on at Purple Woods. **Erin** is the Board President of the Durham Region International Film Festival. She joined right in and was seen in lively chats with several of our members. Tnx for stopping by, **Erin**, and we hope you join us for the Corn Roast in September.

The tests of the generator automatic start-up, mentioned earlier, have now been completed and all is good. However, some other issues with the generator were discovered and repairs have been made. Since this update is getting a bit long I will save it for a later issue. Normally, we would not have an update in during the summer but since so much is going on and there is good content I decided to bite the bullet and issue one.



Erin Boshert and Laird VE3LKS

It is always great to announce that we have some new members in the North Shore ARC. **Joe Cipparrone VA3CIP** (aka Crazy Italian Person) has been a welcomed guest to our meetings and Wednesday night coffee meetups and now Joe is a full member. **Thomas Schitka VE3PDK** has also been an active visitor to our meetings and coffee meetups and has now also joined the ranks. **Thomas** is active in Scouting so maybe we will have an opportunity to assist him with radio events in the future. Both of these fellows have been helping out already and will be assets to our club. At our June BBQ it was great to meet **Cam Richard VE3IGX**. If I remember right **Cam** was a member quite a few years ago and has now joined again. **Cam** lives just north of the repeater and we look forward to chatting with him on OSH. Make sure you take the time at the Sermon on the Mount to introduce yourselves to these new members and get to know them.



Jeffrey VA3RTV, John SWL, Larry SWL, Jimmy VE3OI, Bob VE3HIX, Joe VE3VGI, Alex VA3AMP and Doug VA3DCE.

this picture Alex VA3AMP must have been the supervisor! 😊

On one of our many trips to the repeater we had quite a crew. Some were there to work and others came along for moral support and to socialize. By the looks of

Well, I hope you are all having a fantastic summer. Drop me a line if you have something interesting that you would like to see in the next Update.

73 de Laird VE3LKS