

Monthly Update

November 2018

November Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, Nov 20, 7:00pm
Where: White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence

We will be having a presentation and discussion on the AllStar mode of communication including a segment on how to program your phone to access the system.

Morse Key and CW Presentation

Bob Cowley VE3HIX had a really interesting presentation on Morse keys and CW at our October meeting. You could say that CW was one of the earliest digital type modes and even to this day CW can get through when voice communications can't.

Several members brought their keys to the meeting and **Bob** described each one to the group and explained the various idiosyncrasies that could allow you to tell what type of key an operator that you were listening to was using.

At the break **Bob** answered questions and connected keys so those who were interested could try their hand with the various types.



Volunteers Needed –

Scout Presentation

The 1st Port Perry Scout Troop has asked the North Shore ARC for a presentation on Amateur Radio, including some hands-on, practical radio time. Scouts from the 1st Port Perry Troop helped **Clint VA3KDK** and **Martha VA3SBD** the morning of the Scouts Canada Jamboree on the Air by setting up the antennae. Later these same youth were very interested in Amateur Radio, paying close attention to **Clint** while he was working his station. Volunteers would be expected to hold a brief introduction to our hobby and then provide some on air time. The meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb 12th in the Port Perry Scouts Hall. For details, please contact Scouter **Thomas VE3PDK**.



Christmas Potluck

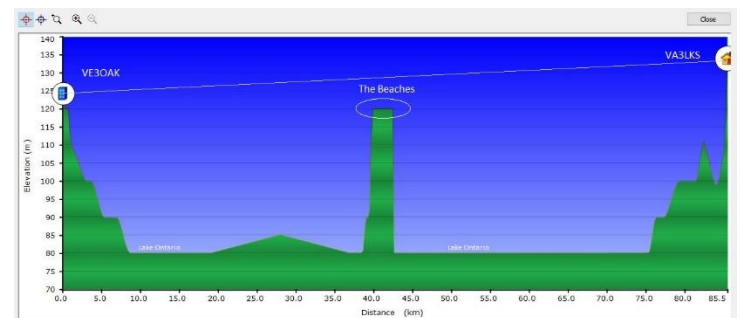
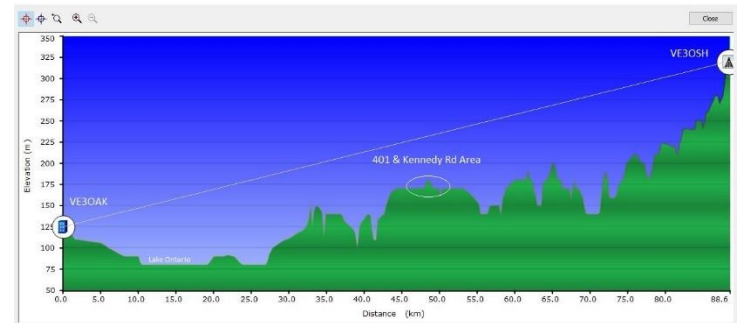
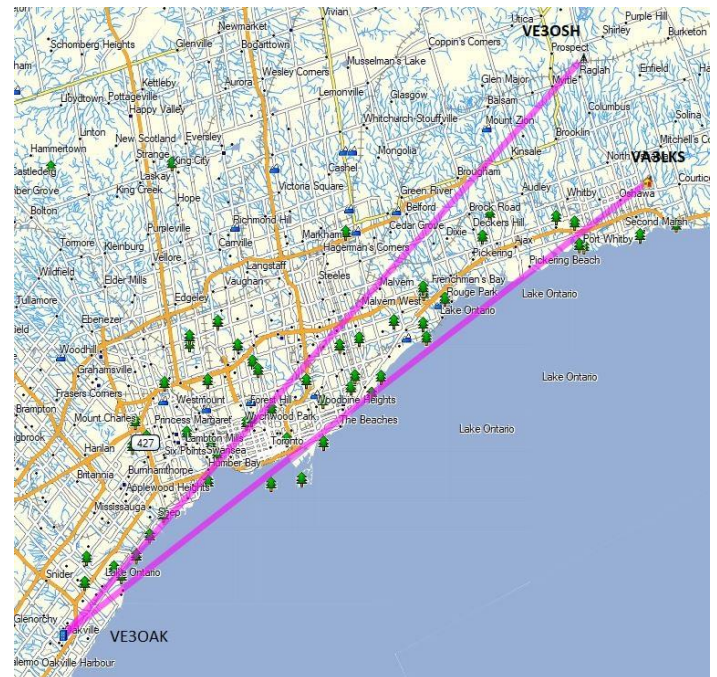
Martha VA3SBD will have a signup sheet at our November meeting for items needed for our annual Christmas Potluck. The Christmas Potluck is held in lieu of our meeting on the evening of December 18. Members are encouraged to sign up for one or two items so that **Martha** knows what food, drink and desserts we will have and can plan to fill in any gaps as needed. As always, visitors are more than welcome to attend. This is another event where if you go away hungry it was your own fault!

Website – ve3osh.com

APRS Ping of the Month

by Joe Stratton VE3VGJ
VE3OAK to VA3LKS and VE3OSH

I was wondering why the **VA3LKS** and **VE3OSH** iGates received so many APRS packets from the **VE3OAK** (Oakville) digipeater. So, I checked the ground profile using a GPS program. The results were very interesting. These profiles are ground level and do not include the height of buildings and towers where the antennas are mounted. Both are still line of sight so this is one possible reason for the good reception. Note: the hump of 145 meters in the middle from the curvature of the earth is not included in the profiles.



Email – info@ve3osh.com

Tuesday Night Rag Chew



Our Tuesday night rag chews are still going strong. This is not a formal net but rather 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. As well, since this is a rag chew, and not a net, feel free to step in and moderate the group should one of the regulars not be there. All you have to do is jot down who is on and rotate through the list so that everyone gets a chance to participate.

Wednesday Night Face-to-Face

As well as the Tuesday night rag chew on the repeater 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, show any new gadgets that have been acquired 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.



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 small 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 Farm, 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. White Feather Farm is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan.

Yearly Membership

Yes, it is that time once again when annual membership dues are, well, due. If you are a member of RAC, Radio Amateurs of Canada, membership is \$30. If you are not a member of RAC then membership is \$40. The difference is due to our club insurance policy that we have through RAC. We will be taking membership dues at our November meeting. We can also take them at the Christmas Potluck but it would be nice to give the membership chair a break and be able to enjoy the Christmas party too. Cash is king but if you do bring a cheque it MUST be made out to "North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc" as the bank may not take it otherwise. Also, bring a completed membership form. Thank you.

Yaesu Holiday Specials

Steve VA3TPS brought to my attention that the Yaesu Holiday Specials had begun and there are some good savings to be had if you are looking for a new radio. You can find the savings listed on the main Yaesu website page at www.yaesu.com. You can always drop a hint to the significant other that this might be a great Christmas gift!

QRM from the Shack



It has been great hearing some of the new members participating on the Tuesday evening rag chew. On a recent Tuesday night **Mark VE3DKW** even passed the mic to his son and had him check in. No better way to get someone hooked on the hobby then to get them on the air.

Speaking of new members, it is always nice to announce that someone else has joined the North Shore ARC. **Grant Butcher VA3KJI** is now a member of the club but he has ties to several members. **Grant** is from Bowmanville and knows **Joe VE3VGJ** from past acquaintances and also knows **Jimmy VE3SOI** as they worked together. Welcome to the group **Grant** and we all look forward to getting to know you better.



I can't wait for December and our annual Christmas Potluck! This has become one of those highlight events that you just don't want to miss. Here's hoping that **Martha VA3SD** will bring some of her famous fruit cake to the party as we would not want Santa dropping a lump of coal in her sock this year!



Well, the HF band conditions are not all that ideal but there is a bit of light in the darkness. If you have not tried one of the digital modes, such as FT8, you may want to consider giving it a try. If you already have an HF rig then you will just need to get an interface, such as the Signallink USB, to connect your radio to your computer. With a mere 20 watts you will be working stations around the globe that you can barely hear on your radio. You are only sending text messages but it sure is a lot of fun. **Vic VE3JAR** is a madman on this mode and constantly works a few hundred stations a week. Anyway, it is something worth considering.

Another thing you should consider doing is going to QRZ.com and filling in some details about you and your radio setup. It does not matter how much or little equipment or experience you have people enjoy looking up your call and learning a bit about you. Go to www.qrz.com and look up some calls that you might know. Some good ones to start with are **VA3TPS** and **VE3JAR**. If you can use Word then you can create your profile on QRZ.com.

I am a bit nervous about Tuesday evening as I will be leading out in the discussion around AllStar mode. The good thing is that we have some members, such as **Lex VE3LEX** and **Clint VA3KDK**, who will be able to help answer questions and clarify any of the really detailed aspects of the mode and our setup at the repeater.

I hope you see you all on Tuesday evening!

73 de Laird VE3LKS