



Monthly Update

December 2018

November Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, Dec 18, 7:00pm
Where: White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence

Christmas Potluck

Is there a better way to wrap up the year than with a fantastic Christmas Potluck? This is always one of the highlights of the year and you will not want to miss it. Please contact **Martha VA3SBD** and let her know what you will be bringing so that she can make sure we have a good balance of items. After that all you have to do is come prepared to have a great time!

AllStar and IAXRPT Presentation

Laird Solomon VE3LKS had a presentation on how AllStar Link works and how to configure IAXRPT on your computer, tablet or Android phone. Since we have AllStar available on both our 2m VE3OSH and 440 VE3NAA repeaters this gives everyone yet another way to connect to the North Shore repeaters whether you are local or half way around the world.



Vic VE3JAR and Laird VE3LKS discussing AllStar during the break.

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. **If you are paying by cheque it MUST be made out to "North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc"** as the bank may not take it otherwise. With proper ID we will also accept cash. Please bring a completed membership form. Thank you.

The Santa Net



For the 13th consecutive year, the 3.916 Net will be presenting The Santa Net on 3.916 MHz. Good girls and boys can talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly at 7:30 PM (Central) starting Friday, November 23, 2018. The Santa Net will run nightly at 7:30 PM Central through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018.

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**.



APRS Ping of the Month

by Joe Stratton VE3VGJ
New digi VE3VGJ-1

*Editors note: **Joe VE3VGJ** recently setup a digi just east of the 35/115 and north of the 401 to see if improvements could be made with coverage between Bowmanville and Port Hope. Well, so far it has been a great success. Below is what Joe sent to me.*

I'm surprised with the coverage of this digi. Cobourg to the east, Scarborough to the west and was surprised the number of packets it relayed when **Bob VE3IRB** was in Burketon Station. Checked the ground profile with my GPS and who would have thought it is line of site?



Repeater News

Clint VA3KDK has connected the VE3OSH repeater to the Broadcastify streaming service (www.broadcastify.com) so that you can listen to VE3OSH online when you do not have access to a radio. Please note that there can be a 30-40 second delay if you are listening to the stream as well as your radio.

We will be connecting the VE3NAA repeater up to the VE3TNK hub in Hamilton that connects to VE3RTR in Cobourg, VE3ORC in Orillia, VE3CKL in Lindsay, VE3LSR in Edgar and VE3SNM in Ballentrae. These are all 440 repeaters. Add these to your radio memories and you can chat back to the North Shore gang when you are travelling around south central Ontario.

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.

A Christmas Ham

*T'was a night before Christmas and all through my shack
The tubes were a glowing, I was making contacts.
The antenna was tuned and rotated 'round
Facing the south, the noise level to drown.*

*I sat in my old chair, earphones on my head
I stopped spinning the dial, now what's being said?
Two old codgers were at it, they were making a scene!
Which rig was garbage and which was a dream.*

*Down the band I slid like snow on the fly
With nothing else heard 40 meters I'd try.
With the snap of a switch, align grid and plate
Setting the filters, HEY, there are my mates!*

*The rag chewers were there, talking en masse
Each taking turns, their greetings to pass.
One by one listing their holiday wishes
Of rigs and amps and satellite dishes.*

*With a broad smile, the radio I keyed
I checked myself in, what else would one need?
Then all of a sudden, a sizzle and spark
The lights blinked twice and then all was dark.*

*A glow in the back of the rig's getting brighter
My heart sinks to the floor, the transformer's on fire!
Pull out the plugs, smoke's filling my nose
I turn on the spray from a close garden hose.*

*Open the windows, fling open the sash
I toss out the rig to the ground with a crash
Stench from the smoke fills my poor head
Then all of a sudden, I wake up in my bed.*

*What could have caused such a terrible nightmare?
Was it the beer, the nuts or the ham ill prepared?
But my shack is intact and snow lightly falls
73's to my friends, Merry Christmas to all!*

QRM from the Shack



Dear Santa, I would like the following this year for Christmas.

- A Kenwood TS-990S like **Jimmy VE3SOI** and **Jeffrey VA3RTV** have. Certainly if you brought them one then I more than meet your criteria and I promise that I will actually use mine.
- A nice vertical HF antenna with 70 to 100 ground radials like **Vic VE3JAR** has. Maybe you can arrange for **Dianne VE3JAW** to install the ground radials too like she did for **Vic**.
- Can you have a mishap with your sleigh in my backyard and take out the maple tree so I can put up the SP7FDX hex beam that you can bring me?

Oh....wait. This is the North Shore Update not my letter to Santa. Sorry about that everyone!

It is finally here! Our annual Christmas Potluck is always a great evening out. No club business, except for maybe a friendly reminder about membership renewal, and a lot of good food and interesting conversations with great friends. There is a chance that I may not be able to make it. Unfortunately, I have to have a laser treatment on one of my eyes that day at 2:30 and the doc says that I will either feel perfectly fine or will have a terrible headache. If it is the latter I will definitely be at home. The good news is that if I am at home you will be free to talk about me and plan my impeachment without fear of me overhearing you! ☺

It is always fun to announce new members and this month is no different. At our November meeting **Mike Engel VA3AQJ** joined the North Shore ARC. Welcome aboard **Mike**! I believe that **Mike** recently earned his ticket and has been a regular at the Wednesday night Tim's meetups. I would also like to welcome **Mert Kilan TB5DY**. Yes folks, the North Shore ARC has gone global! **Mert** is a young man from Turkey who has been studying at Durham College and is now working for a company in Orono. **Mert** recently took the Canadian exam and is now **VA3IMR**! Congrats **Mert** and a hearty welcome to the North Shore to both you and **Mike**!

To all the existing members I would encourage you to seek out all the new call members, that have joined the North Shore this year, at the Christmas Potluck and make sure you get to know them better. When you are a newcomer it can be a bit intimidating being in a room with so many people that you do not know. Who knows, you could very well run into someone who will become a life-long friend. I know that this has been my experience with this club. I have also heard whispers about some other local Amateurs that are considering joining our group too so our ranks may be expanding some more in the New Year.

If anyone has any good ideas for special guests and presentations at our upcoming meetings in the 2019 I am all ears. Just fire me off an email and I will be glad to discuss it with you. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself if you have something that the rest of the group would be interested in. Heck, I would even let **Scott VE3RPN**, the self-appointed president of the MD-380 Club, make a presentation on the advantages of a single band, single mode handheld radio if he wanted to! ☺

Our club has always enjoyed doing meaningful public service events. The demise of the Paul's Dirty Enduro event a few years ago has left a big hole in our schedule. Fortunately, Ride 4 United Way is still going strong but if anyone hears of an event that truly needs some radio communications to make it run better and safer please let any member of the executive know. These types of events spawn lifetime memories like antennas raised with no coax attached, Amateurs in Escalades that don't turn radios on, or ATV operators that fall asleep in hammocks with their handheld on their chest. Yes, great lifetime memories.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being an integral part of the North Shore ARC. We all come from varied backgrounds with different interests in the hobby but it is working. You are a fun bunch to hang around with and when something needs to get done there is no shortage of volunteers that are eager to step forward. Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year!