



# Monthly Update

## March 2019

### March Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, Mar 19, 7:00pm  
Where: White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence

This month's meeting is going to be a little bit of this and a little bit of that. We have a few short presentations lined up and we are going to try to make contact with Scouter **Thomas VE3PDK** to help enhance his presentation on Amateur Radio to the Port Perry Boy Scouts. If time permits we may do a short video for the remainder of the entertainment portion of the meeting. In the business section of the meeting we need to have a discussion around Field Day and we will put the finishing touches on who is doing what for the upcoming Hamfest in April.

### Emergency Kit

#### Presentation

**Bob VE3HIX, Joe VE3VGJ, Jeffrey VA3RTV, Clint VA3KDK, Jimmy VE3SOI and Laird VE3LKS** did a show-n-tell of their kits that they would use if called out for emergency communications. The kits were left on display during our coffee break and sparked a lot of conversation. As Amateurs part of our mandate is to be available to help out in times of emergency. This presentation made us think about how we can become better prepared for such an event and gave us some good ideas as to what we should consider having available in our kits that we may not have thought of before.



### Boy Scout Presentation

Scouter **Thomas VE3PDK** will be making a presentation to the Port Perry Scouts this month. Unfortunately, it will be the same night as our monthly club meeting. Depending on what time **Thomas** will be presenting we may pause our meeting, connect to VE3OSH via IAXRPT, and chat with the Scouts for a few minutes. If someone has cross band repeat capabilities in their vehicle we could also try that but I am not sure how well a handheld will get outside from the basement where our meeting room is.

### Name Badges for New Members

If you have become a new member of the North Shore ARC, over the last year or so, and do not have a club name badge please see **Clint VA3KDK** at the upcoming meeting to make arrangements to get one. If you have multiple call signs we will need to know which one you would like on the name badge and I believe you have the option of getting the name badge in red or navy blue.

### How many Amateurs does it take....

On a recent weekend the starter for the generator had to be replaced at the repeater site. So, as usual, there was a great turnout at White Feather Farms to discuss the plan of attack, have some coffee, breakfast and maybe even one of their famous freshly baked Apple Fritters, and to generally kid around. Somehow three souls got lost in the way to the repeater site and we ended up with seven guys working on the replacement. Well, five as **Joe VE3VGJ** and **Laird VE3LKS** were just observing.



Joe VE3VGJ, Jeffrey VA3RTV, Jimmy VE3SOI, John VA3OFR and Doug VA3DCE



Lex VE3LEX, John SWL, Bob VE3HIX and Carl SWL.

**Lex VE3LEX, Bob VE3HIX, Jimmy VE3SOI, Jeffrey VA3RTV and John VA3OFR** made quick work of replacing the dead starter motor and getting the generator operational once more. They have surmised that the starter probably fried due to trying to start in the

extreme cold. Propane does not start easily when it is really cold, and coupled with the fact that the starter has been in there since day one, that finally it took its toll on the starter. Plans are being formulated to have a small heating device installed so that when the temp drops below freezing the starting system will be ready to kick in even if it is -40 outside. As well, the team is looking for a way to lengthen the time between when the generator fires up and when it starts supplying power to the repeater building. The generator has a built-in 10 second delay but in cold weather it takes up to 30 seconds for the engine to be running smoothly. It appears that a solution may be in the works as **John VA3OFR**, an electrician by trade, may be installing a secondary relay with a 30 second delay. Since the equipment in the repeater building is on UPS this added delay should not be an issue and will give us a lot cleaner power when the generator feed is supplied.



John VA3OFR, Jimmy VE3SOI, Jeffrey VA3RTV, Lex VE3LEX and Bob VE3HIX. Nice gloves Bob!

## Field Day Speed Bump

We are still looking for someone to take the reins and run with Field Day this year. However, there may be another speed bump to overcome as well. CLOCA has informed us that they are running their Firefly Night on both Friday and Saturday night this year. In the past this has not been a problem as they only did this on Friday night and we didn't need access to the facility until Saturday morning. I don't think there is any way we could still use the facility, setup our antennas and stations where we usually do, and deal with a crowd of people on Saturday night. Of biggest concern would be the trip hazards that our coax and antenna guy wires would be for any of the general public walking around the building and into the meadow. So, one option is to go old school and use tents over by the corner of the CLOCA property where our repeater is and put our antennas up there. Alternatively, maybe another site could be found where we can set up and get on the air. Our last resort will be to cancel for this year if a solution cannot be found. Anyway, put your thinking caps on and come to the meeting prepared to discuss our options.



## Items for Sale

**Jimmy VE3SOI** has the following items that he is selling for Ralph VE3CRK.



**Drake Model 2-B receiver and Drake 2-BQ Q-Multiplier / Speaker - \$300**



**Telequipment D61A 10 MHz – Dual Trace Oscilloscope 117V 60Hz.**

- Item works well but display trace signal is not triggering off Channel A nor Channel B
- Suspect dirty slide switch as item was functional but sat for a long time.
- Can easily be fixed. Operating and Service Manual available. Item is popular and there IS lots of information about it on web.
- **\$30** takes it. Includes ONE x1 – Scope probe

## Tuesday Night Rag Chew

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 7:30pm every Wednesday.

This is a great time to get together to chat about radio or anything else that is on your mind. 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.



Website – ve3osh.com

## 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.

## QRM from the Shack



If you were out to the last meeting, been to Tim's on Wednesday night the last few weeks, or made the trek to White Feather for breakfast then you have probably already met **John Sova VA3OFR**. If you haven't then make sure you get a chance to say "Hi" to **John** at our next meeting. **John** is our newest member and has been jumping right in and helping with work at the repeater site. **John** is an electrician by trade and has been helping the Repeater Committee with figuring out a way to make the backup generator system function a bit better on the kick over and has offered to install some good lighting in the generator shack. Welcome to the North Shore ARC, **John**, and thank you for being willing to help out!

Well, even though it has been a bit on the nippy side, with regards to temperature, there sure has been a buzz of activity at the repeater site. It sure is great having the official Repeater Committee, comprised of **Lex VE3LEX**, **Bob VE3HIX**, **Jeffrey VA3RTV**, **Jimmy VE3SOI** and **Clint VA3KDK** to call upon when needed but there are others who also jump right in when asked to help out or they see a need. A couple of notables are **Joe VE3VGJ** and **John VA3OFR**. From the previous paragraph you can see that **John** has been busy on the electrical side of things. **Joe** recently made and installed a nice display shelf to hold the certificates and awards that we have received over the years. Now, when you first see the shelf you are going to wonder if **Joe** was perhaps imbibing at the time he installed it but if you put a level on it you will find that it is dead on. The shack, on the other hand.... Anyway, a big shout out to everyone who has been logging hours up there in the cold. As a side note, we have Fusion repeaters, an AllStar repeater, APRS, Packet, and all the supporting equipment to go along with them in our repeater building. However, I truly believe that the best purchase we have ever made was the heater. A gold star to whoever came up with that idea a few years ago!

Don't forget that our club, even though primarily driven by the love of Amateur Radio, is open to all radio enthusiasts. If you have family, friends, or neighbors who are interested in radio please do not hesitate to bring them out to one of our meetings.

If you have any ideas as to interesting meeting presentations we are all ears. In fact, it sure would be nice if someone would step forward and take on the responsibility of lining up guest presenters and providing us with meeting topics. If this is something that you would be interested in taking on please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing most of you out to the meeting on Tuesday evening!

**73 de Laird VE3LKS**

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