

S P A R K S            S P A R K S            S P A R K S

N O R T H   S H O R E   R A D I O   C L U B    B o x 171 OSHAWA   O n t a r i o

EXECUTIVE & OFFICERS    1976

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REGISTRAR	John Pluister	VE3FGL	655-4269
GET WELL CARDS	Ted Brant	VE3ADD	668-3561
EDITOR	Bernie Sandbrook	VE3ATI	655-4156

MAY 1976

PAST MEETING

Paul Edgley, VE3PQ put on a real good show with slides and a good description of the workings and construction of the CN Tower. He is well prepared for this now as he has given the talk several times in Toronto. The equipment up in the tower is supposed to be in operation on or about May 31 and we now know what the rigs look like up there. The meeting was so well attended that there was standing room only. You had better get to the meeting early if you want to sit down!

NEXT MEETING      Tuesday May 11    8.00 p.m.    DURHAM COLLEGE

This will be the field day meeting and all enthusiasts should be there to discuss the pros and cons but if you are not going to be involved with f.d. don't stay away for goodness sake! The ragchewing is just as good as ever and if you are into something interesting in ham radio we are sure the other guy will be interested in taking you aside and picking your brains. If you are getting QST you will no doubt have seen the series running on the last few issues dealing with the workings of solid state. If you need a counter and DVM why not follow the series and build one up?

BITS N PIECES

VE3OSH now has solid state receivers and a solid state Motorola transmitter operating. There was a small hitch with the interfacing of the logic and the transmitter audio input but Mike, 3FIV solved it on Sunday when he and Harry, 3QG went up again to clear up a few problems. We have some display cards in 3 Radio Shack store in Oshawa now, courtesy of Jack, 3SJ. They were put there to encourage the interested beginner or maybe an interested GRS operator to visit our meetings. As you may now know, we are able to apply for the ham licence plates which have eluded us for a long time and Hank, 3FHV has a few forms if you are interested. See him at the meeting.

"MINUTES OF THE NORTH SHORE RADIO CLUB MEETING FOR  
TUESDAY, 13th APRIL 1976"

The meeting came to order at 8:10 pm in room C249 of Durham College, with well over 34 persons in attendance, 3 of which were guests.

With the reading and adoption of the Minutes, guest speaker Paul Edgeley (3PQ) was introduced; he promptly commenced an informative display and discussion on the communications aspect of the CN tower, until 10:00 when the meeting adjourned for coffee.

At 10:25, the meeting resumed with the agenda devoted to Club business: Ralph (3CRK) proposed an "update" to the Standing Rules which was passed; Ken (3FPP) next led discussions on the upcoming transmitter hunt, and a date for a "dry run" was established.

Field Day matters followed, and the problem of securing a generator was glossed-over; it was also moved and carried that a rotor be purchased by the Club, the cost of which was already covered by a generous donation from the students in the code & theory class.

Vic (3ANX) then proposed that the Club advertise its meeting dates in the future, possibly in "The Oshawa Times". A general talk on advertising, within the means of the Club, followed.

General business continued as Steve (3CFG) established the Club's cash assets at \$556.18; Bob (3HMH) announced that the Ontario Government now allows call-letter licence plates, and he outlined briefly the procedure in obtaining these. Shortly thereafter, the proposal was made to investigate the possibility of using Ken's (3DOC) QTH for Field Day '76; discussion on this was reserved for the next Executive Meeting.

With that, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 pm.

FIELD DAY '76 (at last!)

The Field Day weekend is but a few short weeks away, and it should be as much fun as ever--by all indications.

What indications? Well, obviously, the greatest indication is the general lack of enthusiasm about the event generated thus far by the Club membership! As paradoxical as it may sound, the amount of fun to be had at Field Day (judging by the past 4 years) is proportional to the yawns and ho-hums visible on Hams' faces whenever the topic is discussed--specifically, Field Day is the greatest whenever the majority of Club members either (1) predict it won't work, or (2) refuse to volunteer to operate, or (3) don't want to talk about it during meetings.

The "diehard Field Day fringe" (including VE3's BRT, CRK, EWH, CUI, ADJ, GOU, and HNH to name a few) stands only to benefit from such a situation; other Hams, however (who fortunately make the effort to at least "drop by" and observe the action) have been known to become quickly infected by the fresh air, splendid isola-

tion, Amateur Radio fellowship, and contest fever--and they, too, with a flick of a "dit", have succumbed to temptation by yelling or keying "CQ FD" in short order (sometimes with no transceiver within 100 feet....807 "transmission fluid"? hi).

Just as 2-meter FM is but a part of Amateur Radio, so too are the contests; it should be remembered that by devoting time continuously to only a single facet of this great hobby, one inadvertently departs from a wonderful "thing" about Ham Radio, specifically, the terrific variety it offers--and rest assured, plenty of variety is to be had on Field Day weekend (crash-!-courses on antenna theory... ..learning why transmitters don't work...learning why some operators don't work, hi...the volatility of gasoline...the toxicity of Ham-spun food...the remedy for snake-bite...etc., etc.).

Seriously, at worst, Field Day causes horrendous QRM on the bands to non-contestants; at its best, however, FD weekend sees thousands of fellow radio enthusiasts (not of the CB/GRS variety!) getting together all across this continent, enacting a serious possible emergency, and of course, having a whale of a time. It's habit-forming, once tried. QRZ FD?

#### CONTEST OPERATING

It seems to be world-wide opinion that the VE-crowd generally shies away from contests, especially 'tests devoted to cw; the reason for this, perhaps, is the fact that the large body of Canadians feel their fists are too slow for what sound like "QRQ" contest exchanges.

The truth is, it's not always the sending of the dahs & dits that's fast, but the procedure itself---there's no room whatsoever for long drawn-out transmissions during events such as Field Day, and at the first hint of "Name here is..." etc., etc. the op at the other end, striving for points, will simply QSY.

A fast and simple method of exchanging information (no matter how fast your fist might be) is the following:

- CQ FD CQ FD DE VE3NSR/3 VE3NSR/3 FD K
- VE3NSR/3 DE W2ABC/2 AR
- W2ABC/2 DE VE3NSR/3 -...- 589 589 ONT ONT ? BK
- BK QSL 599 599 NYC NYC BK
- BK QSL 73 SK W2ABC/2 DE VE3NSR/3 QRZ FD? DE VE3NSR/3 K

As can be seen, D.O.C. identification requirements are satisfied by VE3NSR/3, and all relevant information is exchanged. The beauty of the method above is that VE3NSR/3 remains on one frequency due to the "QRZ FD?" at the end of the QSO; this means that other stations tuning about the band, or stations monitoring the VE3/W2 QSO just completed will immediately call VE3NSR/3 (the W2 station is left "out in the cold")---there's no need for VE3NSR/3 to waste time & effort looking for a "clear spot": let the others hunt us,



and we'll benefit by having the option of "picking & choosing" the strongest/slowest/fastest/cleanest (whatever) signal of the bunch calling.

It's simple, effective, and fast enough so that (as mentioned earlier) even the slowest of senders can make rapid-fire QSOs of the one-minute variety; and, with the "hands free" effect of staying on one frequency, the op can concentrate upon cw, and not upon the possibility of spilling the coffee while reaching for the VFO tuning knob (hi).

-Eddy (VE3CUI)

#### ODDS 'N ENDS

Local: Snowy & miserable Sunday 25th April had at least one bright note to offer, namely, beautiful short-skip conditions on 10-meters; Bob (3HNN), Vic (3ANX), and Bill (BRT) were heard having fun chasing "5-9" SSB sigs throughout the day, and more than one future "Ten-Ten Net" member was made in town at that time -...- Sun-spot conditions are expected to get worse before they get better in 1976; still, there's plenty of DX to be had with patient listening, as witnessed by Gary (3EPY) who recently bagged his first "ZL" station (note: wonder what band? Couldn't have been 2- or 11-meters, could it? hi) -...- Good luck to all in the code & theory class trying out for their Ham tickets on 5th May; it's understood that the visiting DOC bunch will be administering exams for the Advanced certificate as well, and at least 3 SSB hopefuls will give-it-a-go at that time -...- Anyone wishing to know more about Oscar DX above 29-MHz or repeaters on Venus & Mars should contact Bill (3BRT), Club expert on such extraterrestrial matters (hi) -...- Anyone have any cheap but effective & portable gear up for grabs? If so, pse call VE3CUI. (note: for 2-meter FM only; no 160-meter linears, please. Tnx).

Skip: Danger: the Radio Society of Great Britain warns that if you're operating mobile, do not operate your gear while re-fueling at a gas station; baked ham could easily result from a stray spark at the moment the pump nozzle touches your car (due to a difference in grounds); take care, you 2-meter FM crowd, or you'll wish that you were operating a linear on 160 (at home!). Tnx '3CRK -...- The news is out that Ontario Hams can now have call-letter car licence plates; Bob (3HNN) or Farney (3BHQ) could probably give more info, if you're willing to shell-out 25 bucks to the D.O.T. -...- No further word on the Canadian Novice ticket, other than the fact that the D.O.C. hopes to have a rough draft (draught?) ready by this Summer, for general comment; no news on a Canadian Extra Class ticket, & hopefully that's a dead issue -...- Noticed the presence of CB/GRS in your life lately? Even the car manufacturers are getting into the act; G.M. of course is offering CB as an option in its 1977 models, and American Motors is using the CB craze as a gimmick to sell its cars: seems that a shapely blond spells out the virtues of her '76 Gremlin to a truck driver as she passes him on a freeway (via CB) and the mike-grabbing "eighteen wheeler" expresses his wish to trade places with her, just as she enters a ramp at the side of the road. All this comes courtesy of a TV commercial -...- QSLs from VYØA & VXØA were worth waiting for; each is an 8"x10" colour map of Sable & St. Paul Islands, respectively (watch for more "VY" doings this Spring).

# GET IN THE SWIM

## AT

# ONTARIO HAMFEST 76

## JULY 9,10,11.



- FLEAMARKET
- COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS
- ON BINGO GAMES
- WEEKEND CAMPOUT
- OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL
- BEERGARDEN
- SATURDAY EVENING SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL SUPPER  
(INCLUDED IN YOUR REGISTRATION PRICE).
- SATURDAY EVENING CAMPFIRE HOOTENANY PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES

### REGISTRATION RATES

REGISTERED HAMS 3.50

XYL, YL, HARMONICS 1.50

After June 15

REGISTERED HAMS \$4.00

XYL, YL, HARMONICS \$2.00

INCLUDES PARK ADMISSION, AND SPAGHETTI SUPPER

### LOCATION

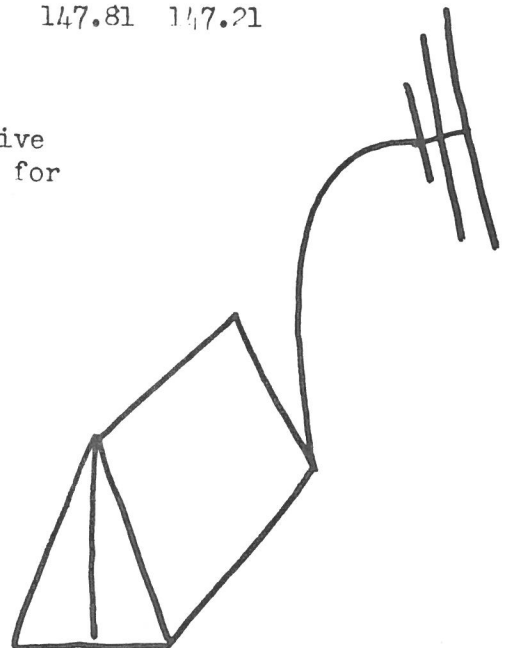
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TALK IN 146.16 146.76  
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Your Club will receive  
a detailed brochure for  
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