

NORTH SHORE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX # 171, OSHAWA, ONT., L1H 7L1



March 1986

First Class Première classe

VE3CRK 86
Ralph Day
454 Holcan Ave.
Oshawa Ont.
L1G 5X6

**FIFTH ANNUAL
DURHAM REGION
AMATEUR RADIO
FLEA MARKET**

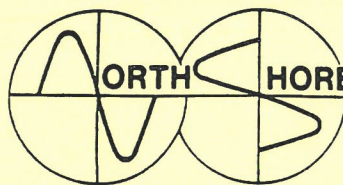
**ORGANIZED BY: SOUTH PICKERING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. VE3SPC
& NORTH SHORE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. VE3NSR**

**SATURDAY APRIL 12, 1986
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Pickering High School

Pickering Village, Ajax

ADMISSION ONLY \$3.00 ea. - includes ticket on Super Prize



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VE3KQE	President	Reno Torresan	668-8760
VE3KSP	Vice President / Past Pres.	Neil McAlister	668-4161
VE3NIP	Secretary	Frank Lane	434-6657
VE3CEU	Treasurer	Colin Bell	723-7842
VE3OHN	Program Co-ordinator	Roy Norton	623-7125

OTHER EXECUTIVE

VE3GDF	(Registrar)	Keith Wyard-Scott	723-5758
VE3CRK	(Special Events Co-ordinator)	Ralph Day	576-8738
VE3NIP	(Community Relations)	Frank Lane	434-6657
VE3ADD	(Get well cards)	Ted Brant	668-3561
VE3AAF	(2-meter net)	Roy Miller	852-5447
VE3KSP	(SPARKS Editor)	Neil McAlister	668-4161
VE3LHZ	(Membership list & mailing labels)	Paul Dale	579-2877
VE3QG	(Financial Auditor)	Harry Westwood	683-5104

CLUB STATION VE3NSR

CLUB REPEATER VE3OSH 147.72 MHz in, 147.12 MHz out.

CLUB NET

The 2-meter net, hosted by Roy, VE3AAF, takes place every Thursday at 19:30 local time, on the Club's repeater, VE3OSH. As part of the net, code practice is provided by Bernie, VE3ATI, starting at 20:30.

FLASH! SPECIAL TOUR FOR MARCH MEETING

Instead of the usual March meeting, there will be a **TOUR** of the Skycraft Air Transport facilities and flying school at the Oshawa Airport on Tuesday, March 11. The tour starts from the Skycraft waiting room at 7:30. Thanks to Skycraft; and to Fred, VE3HE, for organizing this event.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO "SPARKS"

"All contributions gratefully received!" Articles, want ads, news from your shack, good black-and-white ham photos, letters to the Editor, etc., etc. may be directed to the Editor personally or by telephone. (Kindly call after 19:00 hours, please). Or mail your information to the Club's post box. Deadline for publication is the 25th of the month.

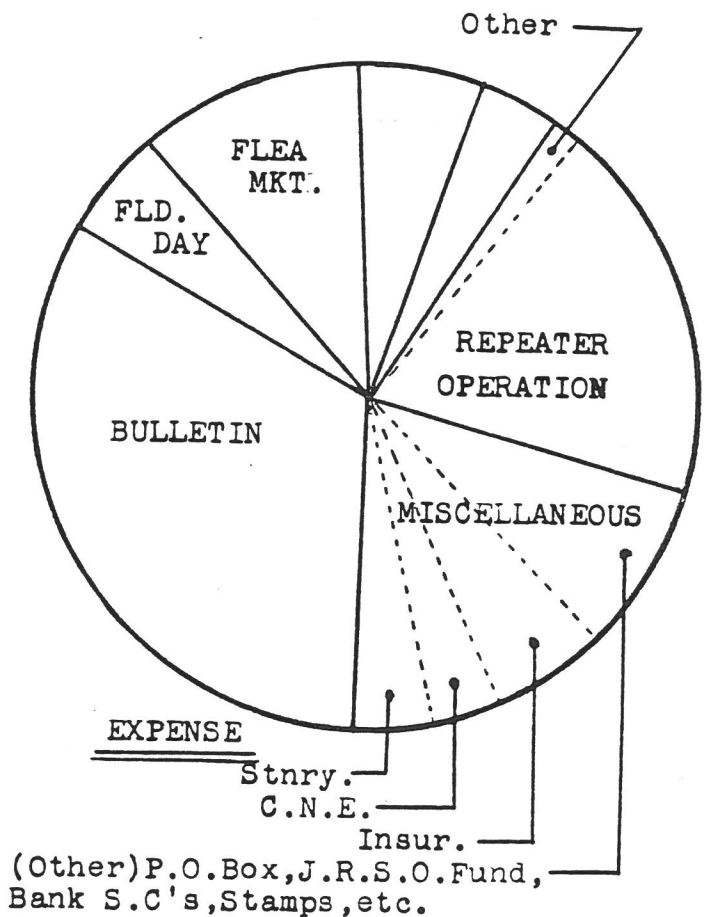
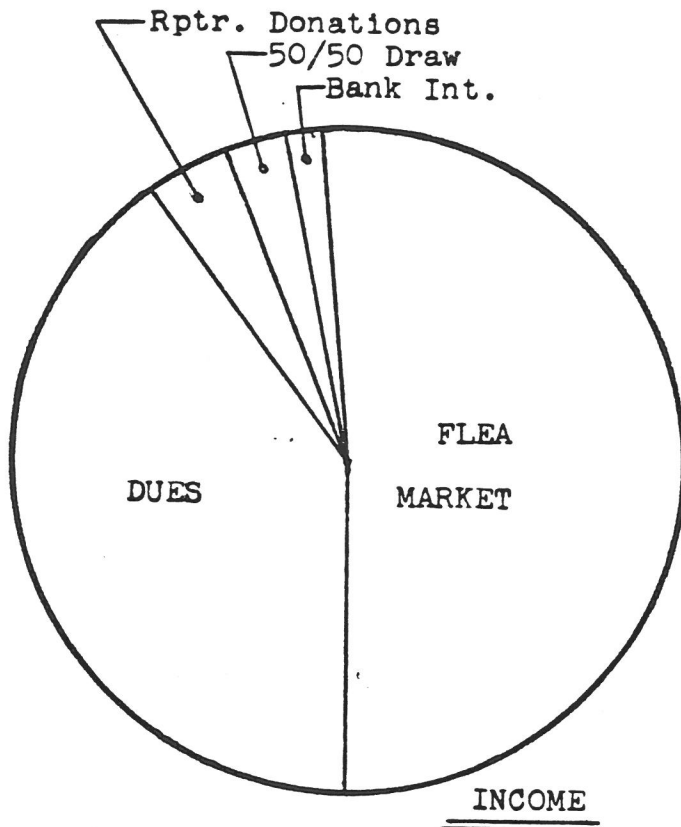
PRESIDENT'S CORNER -- Reno Torresan, VE3KQE

It will be a privilege to serve as President of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club for the next term. As President I will try to do my best to serve the best interests of the club and its members. I will welcome members' ideas for increasing membership and strengthening NSARC, as we all must work together if this club is to continue and grow. So let's all chip in and do our part!

On the Board this year with me are: Vice President (and Past President) Neil McAlister (VE3KSP); Secretary Frank Lane (VE3NIP); Treasurer Colin Bell (VE3CEU); and Program Co-Ordinator Roy Norton (VE3OHN). All of us are keenly interested in doing what is best for the club, and we will welcome any ideas towards this goal. When I make a commitment, I always give 100 percent. With all of us pulling together I know we can accomplish a lot. Looking forward to seeing you at the next club meeting!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1985

These "pie charts" show where the money comes from, and where it goes. The audited statement for 1985 is given on the following page. Thanks to VE3s CEU and OG for keeping our books in such good order.



Audited Financial Statement--Jan.I/85 to Dec.31/85

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 1507.00
1985 Flea Market	\$ 2250.25
Repeater Donations	\$ 145.00
50/50 Draw	\$ 112.50
Jacket Income	\$ 1016.00
Misc. Income	\$ 181.37
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$ 5212.12</u>

EXPENSE

Bulletin	\$ 916.23	
Repeater Operation	\$ 1085.77	(85 net \$551.13)
Field Day	\$ 151.05	(net \$139.76)
Corn Roast	\$ 112.54	(net \$104.79)
Xmas Party	\$ 391.25	(85 net \$164.27)
Flea Market	\$ 300.00	
Jacket Expense	\$ 1056.95	
Misc. Expense	\$ 770.80	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	<u>\$ 4784.59</u>	

Cash on hand and in bank Jan.I/85	\$ 1310.51
Total Income to Dec.31/85	<u>\$ 5212.12</u>
	\$ 6522.63
Total Expense to Dec.31/85	<u>\$ 4784.59</u>
	\$ 1738.04
Add O/S cheque #64	<u>\$ 521.13</u>
Cash on hand and in bank Dec.31/85	\$ 2259.17
1985 Profit --\$ 427.25	

Note: Net costs are for information only, and reflect advance Rptr. rent initiated in Mar./85, buy-backs & returns for other functions. (Un-audited)

EDITORIAL: THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS -- VE3KSP

Candide, Voltaire's most famous fictional character, was a well-meaning but naive young fellow whose optimism was his greatest fault. No matter how dismal the circumstances in which he found himself and others, *Candide* ignored self-evident problems, while concocting elaborate arguments to convince everyone he met that "everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds". We should appoint Voltaire as club philosopher . . .

At the February meeting, Frank VE3NIP made a well-researched presentation about the topography of the terrain surrounding our repeater site. He documented the theoretical advantage of increasing the height of our tower by 40 feet. (An entire section was removed several years ago and never replaced; the club was not consulted.) An improved tower was proposed as the first, and least expensive, step of a program to renovate VE3OSH. Our repeater has done yeoman service for donkey's years, but its restricted coverage compared to others in the Toronto region, and its lack of modern facilities vex many operators -- not just club members, but potential members who are not bothering to join us because they find other 2-meter repeaters more useful.

In accordance with NSARC by-laws, no expensive decision can be made without majority approval. In discussion, the tower proposal met much opposition. The kernel of the argument seemed to be that vaguely-specified experience "proves" that increasing the height of a tower by 40 feet won't work, and that we'll be wasting our money by so doing.

Interesting. An additional 40 feet at your QTH or mine would make one heck of a difference. Besides the mathematics (ask 'NIP if you want to check the published sources and work it out for yourself) it seems counter-intuitive to suggest that repeaters are exempt from the usual relationship between antenna height above the ground and propagation, particularly when rising terrain, and nearby hills and ridges impede the line of sight in several directions. The southerly view from the repeater site is breath-taking -- but few of our potential users reside on boats in the middle of Lake Ontario. If tower height is unimportant for our repeater, why didn't our founding fathers just stick one end of OSH's antenna into the dirt and save their hard-earned nickels?

Of course, the skeptics may be right, but they offered no data comparable to 'NIP's from which we could make an intelligent decision. At any rate, one of them challenged that 'NIP should pay for a new tower himself, to be reimbursed by the Company only if anticipated improvements in signal strength and coverage were actually achieved. But when Frank agreed to erect a temporary tower at the repeater site to conduct tests at no cost to NSARC, the very same Member who had just thrown down the gauntlet a moment before now proposed a motion to shelve any action on the tower for a year!

It was disheartening that nobody suggested we should at least study our problem of poor coverage further; or that we should give a technical committee a mandate to investigate the feasibility and costs of comprehensive improvements to our elderly repeater (it won't last forever); or that we ought to conduct the no-cost-to-us scientific tests that 'NIP had proposed. The motion put before the membership was a limited, negative one just to forget the whole tower business.

The motion passed by a thumping majority. Thus, with money sitting in the bank gathering interest, NSARC apparently has no interest in improving its public "voice" in 1986.

But why speak of improvements? Everybody knows that our great and glorious repeater has the widest coverage of any in the area. There are no mobile operators in Durham Region; and that even if there are any, they don't need an autopatch since emergencies never arise on the road and nobody ever wants to call home from the car. A backup power supply is a superfluous frill for any repeater. Increasing OSH's output to more than its present mighty 40 watts would be a waste of electricity. Nobody needs a link to other repeaters, since none of our members ever travels north to "cottage country" or elsewhere in the province. And we all love that cute, hissing "tail" which adds so much to our conversations and distinguishes VE3OSH as the most up-to-date instrument for miles around.

Non-members who haven't discovered NSARC yet will surely beat a path to our clubhouse door just as soon as they get an earful of good ol' VE3OSH and its many outstanding, modern features! NSARC does have a repeater fund to finance repairs and improvements, but most members appear to believe that we are already living in the best of all possible worlds. At the next meeting I may propose a motion of my own -- to make Candide the official club mascot.

FLEA MARKET: NSARC NEEDS YOU

Soon it will be time to break out the red jackets and head for the Pickering High School. As the "pie charts" in this issue clearly demonstrate, half the club's income comes from the annual Durham Region Amateur Radio Flea Market, to be held this year on **Saturday, April 12th**.

NSARC needs YOU. Anyone who intends to attend this event at all should really feel *obliged* to participate in parking and security, for which NSARC is responsible. Get someone to help man your table when you're on duty -- or double up with a friend. This club simply cannot afford selfish individuals who are interested only in their own petty business deals at the Flea Market: Our organization's financial survival is at stake. With enough people involved, no one will have to work all day. No one will get stuck working outdoors for the duration, because we exchange parking and security staff frequently. Just like last year, we intend to provide breaks so participants can go and ogle the goodies like everyone else.

We also need as many people as possible to help with setting up tables on Friday night, and with cleaning up the place on Saturday afternoon. Again, this means YOU, not the other guy.

WARNING: There is no March club meeting, and the April meeting is held only days before the event. Mark this on your calendar and plan to help out now. Please phone VE3KSP or VE3FGL so we can know who to count on. Compared to this time last year, response so far has been negligible. Every year is a test: If NSARC fails to pull its own weight, our sister club in Pickering will go it alone in the future, and we'll lose half our annual income. Your choice, OM.

PETITION TO D.O.C. Re: CHANGES IN AMATEUR LICENSE

As instructed by the members at the January meeting, the Directors prepared the following petition, which was presented for members' signatures in February, and forwarded to the D.O.C. in Toronto. If you were unable to attend to sign the petition, maybe you can write your own letter. Your views are important for the future of your hobby.

Dear Madam or Sir:

The members of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc. are in general agreement with liberalizing the entry-level Amateur Radio license as a means of encouraging new participants in this hobby.

However, we respectfully submit that abolishing Morse Code as a prerequisite for licensure will predictably result in an influx of poorly-motivated and ill-disciplined recruits who will do enormous damage to the Amateur Radio service. We need look no further than the chaos and obscenity on the 11-meter "Citizens' Band" to find an example to be avoided. If we look for examples abroad, a novice license has become so easy to obtain in Japan, for instance, that 2-meter FM in that country is now virtually unusable for serious and dignified Amateur communication.

We also fear that those who have no knowledge of the code will miss out on an important aspect of this hobby. Low-power CW is a wonderful way to get acquainted with Amateur Radio. The novice can start exciting and gratifying communications with fellow hams all over the world, using minimum equipment that is often used and inexpensive, and simple, home-brew dipole antennas. We suspect that starting into FM or restricted SSB immediately is likely to discourage many novices who lack the money or experience to set up a good "antenna farm", particularly during a sustained period of low propagation such as we are now experiencing. We all know that CW will often "get through" when other modes of radio transmission are unintelligible -- an important consideration for emergency communications.

To ensure that new recruits to this hobby are properly-motivated and fully able to participate in Amateur Radio in all its aspects, we urge that Morse Code be retained as a requirement for any entry-level license, with the speed dropped to 5 words per minute. We further urge that the Department impose a time limit for holding such a license of twelve or eighteen months at the most, during which time the Novice must upgrade to a higher class. This will "weed out" poorly-motivated novices who have no interest in the broader aspects of Amateur Radio, and whose only interest in this easier, new entry-level license proves to be using VHF or UHF as a glorified form of "CB".

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Yours Truly,

Reno Torresan, VE3KQE
Director and President

and the Members of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc.

LET'S CALIBRATE OUR ANEROID BAROMETERS! -- Fred, VE3HE

Based on conversations I have had with several hams, there appears to be some misunderstanding as to how a barometer should be calibrated. Let's see if we can't simplify the procedure. All one has to do is obtain the altimeter setting from your nearest airport control tower or flight service station if a control tower is not provided at your local airport.

The reading will vary from approximately 28 inches to 31 inches and will be given to the second decimal place. The calibration screw on the barometer will be adjusted to make the instrument coincide with the reading obtained. Remember to tap the instrument to reduce the lag in the reading caused by the friction of the mechanism.

Now someone is going to say, "but I live at a point where I am 900 feet above sea level." Well, you have just finished calibrating the barometer to the sea level barometric pressure at the time of the reading, whatever your own altitude. One should use a station reading within 25 miles or so of your location if possible for reasonable accuracy.

Now you have a very useful altimeter: For every .01 inches of movement the barometer makes in a vertical direction you have changed altitude 10 feet. If the barometer reads 29.68 inches, and upon climbing a long hill it now reads 29.47 inches, you have climbed 210 feet. A barometric pressure drop of 1 inch equals a climb in altitude of approximately 1,000 feet.

The prime purpose for the altimeter setting is to provide all aircraft in the area with accurate measurement of their indicated altitude above sea level, which is the standard reference of altitude for all air traffic operations at altitudes of 0 - 18,000 feet. An aircraft on the ground at Oshawa Airport will have an indicated altitude reading of 458 feet when the altimeter has been set to the current reading.

If the pressure is taken from the public radio and TV weather broadcast, it is usually expressed in kilopascals. One kilopascal equals 10 millibars; Inches = millibars X .029531. A pressure expressed as 103.33 kilopascals is equivalent to 1,033.33 millibars or 30.51 inches.

An excellent source of weather information is available by telephoning the Zenith number 1-800-387-0444, where a continuous transcribed aviation weather broadcast will be received for Southern Ontario. The same broadcast is also available on 122.35 MHz.

Happy adjusting and listening!

FLEA MARKET TALK-IN

Bob, VE3LLZ, is taking charge of the on-air talk-in for the April 12th Flea Market. The talk-in will run from around 7 AM, when doors open for vendors, to around 11 AM, or later if necessary, depending on the turn-out of visitors. The talk-in crew will be using three frequencies: VE3OSH (147.720 in/147.120 out), VE3SPA (147.975 in/147.375 out), and 146.520 MHz simplex.

VE3OSH -- ITS HISTORY -- Ed, VE3FRM

Until the early 60s most amateurs had to be content with direct VHF communications, but then repeaters started popping up across the country. The first I can remember in this area was in Buffalo, NY. The 144 MHz AM band was alive with babble and plans for the future of FM. No longer would we have to swing large arrays back and forth during a round table. A whole city could chew the rag using low power and a simple vertical antenna. Mobile operation improved dramatically. One by one AM ops dropped from sight, and soon the "bottom end" became silent, leaving only detector "rush" in my speaker. Within a few years I too joined the gang and the old super regen was placed on the shelf along with many pleasant memories.

Every repeater had a start, and it usually started from a dream of a small group of enthusiastic amateurs. Same with VE3OSH. In June of 1968, VE3s ATI, BIC, BSY, FIV and QG met in the EMO building to discuss the construction of a repeater for the Oshawa area. By July 11 a tower was erected at the present site of the Oshawa Gun Club. After many tests, VE3OSH made its debut in November, 1968. The going wasn't easy for those hardy souls who made this dream come true. Personal funds were poured in ungrudgingly. Mixed with this were donations for gear and money from other interested amateurs. Over 500 trips by day and night, in all kinds of weather, were made to the top of the sacred mount. Blood, sweat, and silent tears were offered to this idol with glowing tubes -- and it responded by giving pleasure to all around.

Many tests were made to improve the operation of the repeater, and after several years it reached its zenith, providing consistent communications as far south as Medina NY, and north to Orillia area. In November '78, 3QG met with NSARC executive, suggesting that if the club were to incorporate, the owners of VE3OSH would, after a 5-year trial period, give the repeater to the club. The exec agreed. VE3QG took care of the legal work, and letters patent were issued in January '79. Bylaw III of NSARC Inc. was enacted confirming the above proposal.

Some Statistics on VE3OSH

The transmitter runs about 55 watts into the duplexer, and about 31 watts leaves the duplexer to the four folded dipoles, which radiate about 100 watts ERP. On low power the transmitter runs less than a watt output. The Sinclair antenna installation is 64 feet from tip of the mast to ground level. [The tower is now 48 feet high -- Ed] The receiver has a preamp with less than .1 uV sensitivity. During times when over-the-horizon interference prevails, a receiver of less sensitivity is remotely switched in.

Five club members are responsible for maintaining VE3OSH. These fellows are to be thanked for all the work they put into the repater on a yearly basis, in all sorts of weather, for zero pay: Bernie 'ATI, Mike 'FIV, Eric 'HMG, Ray 'RP, and Harry 'QG.

Emergency Measures

Our own repeater is unique in having few "bells 'n' whistles" to interrupt its true function of communication. VE3RPT is located not too far from the Oshawa site, and it is well equipped to handle emergencies. The following is a list of emergency speed call numbers on VE3RPT. Note that 916 will dial Durham Regional Police. Simply dial the three-digit speed call number. Cancel with the octothorp (pound sign).

911	Metro Emergency	914	Peel Regional Police
912	Metro Police	915	York Regional Police
913	OPP Downsview	916	Durham Regional Police

So that is the history of VE3OSH. Through the perseverance of a handful NSARC has an asset of which not many clubs can boast: VE3OSH, the "Friendly Repeater". That tiny spark from your milliwatt handie talkie induces the mighty Thor, high atop Repeater Hill, to bring his hammer down!

Ed. note: The repeater doesn't run itself. Hats off to NSARC's unsung heros who do this often-thankless task! And in case of emergency, use 'RPT!

GET WELL SOON!

The entire club was very sorry to hear that one of the mainstays of our organization, Roy, VE3OHN, suddenly fell seriously ill a couple weeks ago. All of Roy's many friends in NSARC join in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery.

BEAR-LY BELIEVABLE

Your intrepid SPARKS staff reporter braved the raving hordes at the Metro Zoo and caught up with that delightful YL and goodwill ambassador from the People's Republic of China, BY1BAR/VE3, (better known as Qing-Qing) during her DX-pedition to Toronto last fall. Her English was no better than our Chinese, but through the help of an interpreter, she graciously agreed to grant us an interview ...

SPARKS: Nin hao!

Q-Q: Hello yourself.

SPARKS: Welcome to Canada. We're from the North Shore Amateur Radio Club. It's obvious that you're a real "ham". So would you be so kind as to give us a short interview for our club newsletter?

Q-Q: No problem, kid. How may I enlighten you?

SPARKS: What do you think of this country?

Q-Q: Great, what I've seen of it. You've got a swell zoo, lots of nice tourists, and all the bamboo a girl can eat. Haven't talked to many

hams, though: Looks like VE3s are becoming an endangered species.

SPARKS: Not meaning to sound rude, but you haven't been very active on the air since you got here.

Q-Q: Afraid I killed my rig. It's built for 220 volts, and I didn't realize this country ran on 120 until it was too late: I fried the finals and the gods know what else.

SPARKS: Gee, that's too bad. Our club will lend you a rig for the rest of your stay.

Q-Q: That's very kind of you, but I'm going home day after tomorrow. Can't stand winter, you know.

SPARKS: You were seen chewing on your friend, Quan-Quan's ear. It looked painful.

Q-Q: Lovers' quarrel. Next question.

SPARKS: Any special message you want to leave for our club members?

Q-Q: Give my 88s and a big bear hug to your buddies. Come over to Beijing and see me sometime!



photo by ve3ksp