

North Shore ARC

Vol. 4 No. 4
April, 1998

Serving the Arr

VE3CRK
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April

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Contributors

Thanks to Jean Paul VE3JPT, Peter VA3PWH, Peter VE3ZZV, Gary VE3EPY, Howard VE3TYQ, Winston VE3WFS, and Walter VE3FJC for submitting items for this months newsletter.

Deadline for Next Issue

Please have all items in by the 15th for next months issue. Thanks de Laird, VE3LKS.

From the Chair in the Shack

Spring arrives this year with rather cool temperatures both weatherwise and activity-wise. We recently learned of VE3TIG, Fred's decision to leave the ARES DRAREO and Special Events coordinatination and his interest in devoting more time to fox hunts. Fred will be missed as his expeienced hand has guided us through so many activities. Club members at the last meeting asked me to convey their sincere appreciation to Fred which I will do with the greatest pleasure.

On another topic altogether, it has been gratifying to see the recent jump in attendance at meetings. In this world of accelerating demands on us there seems little time to spend on club activities. Our phone fan-out has been reminding members of meetings and seems to have had two benefits. First is the increase in attendance. Second is the warm feeling expressed by many who get the calls about the fact that the club does care for them and does appreciate their involvement. Let's keep it up folks and let's also quietly remind those who have left our ranks temporarily that we would love to see them back.

VE3ATT, Russell Gray's passing has just been announced as this goes to press. Even new members like myself recall Russell on the air

although he found it increasingly difficult to even keep his microphone keyed in the last few months. Russell will also be remembered for his generous donation to the club to help with repeater affairs. He will be missed by many.

Last, but not least. Hamfest approaches rapidly (April 18). The shocking truth is that we rely on this income to finance up to two thirds of our annual expenses. We share the profit with South Pickering. We need to make sure that we share the work too. Howard, VE3TYQ; Earl, VE3VGK; Winston, VE3WFS and I have been doing our part at meetings and between them. We desperately need your help. There are several jobs which must be done and in which we have been visibly absent. See Howie or phone him 579-7466 to arrange your helping role. WE NEED YOU!

VA3PWH, Peter Henry

Upcoming Flea Markets

April 18	Durham Region ARC's
Apr 25	Smiths Falls
May 15 - 17	Dayton Ohio
May 29 - 31	Rochester NY.
Aug 15	Brantford ARC
Sep 5	Lindsay ARC
	Walter, VE3FJC

Swap Shop

Gord, VE3UIB, (905) 571 7068

Icom 271A/E 144 meg, all mode transceiver, with power supply, speech proc., matching speaker, desk mic and EX 309 Interface for a computer, \$650. Icom 281H 144 meg mobile transceiver, mic and manual \$295. Garmin 12XLGPS. with manual and computer interface, as new \$325. Stripline Filter for 2 meters \$25. Baycom All mode TNC. Software and manual \$70. Arrow 144 meg. 3 element beam, portable beam \$75. R/S HTX 202 144 meg. handie, manual and charger, battery case

North Shore ARC

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Canada, L1H 7L1

The North Shore ARC
Newsletter is published
monthly except for July and
August when it is a combined
summer edition.

Laird Solomon, VE3LKS
editor

Glen Gostin, VE3LIZ
publisher

\$180. Kantronics KPC-3 Plus, TNC. manuals \$150. AEA. PK 88 TNC, \$70. Diawa 4 pos. Ant. Switch \$85.

Josef, VE3FVH, (905) 655-3009
KLM 13 El. 2m. Ant. \$50, Balun 2K 1:1 50 ohms \$10, Kenwood Phone Patch, model PC-1 \$90.

Glen, VE3LIZ, (905) 725-1545
NC 29 desk charger for batteries used in FT23R- 33R- 73R, FT 411, 811, 911, FT 470 Price is \$80. Radio Shack Model 100 Portable Computer, VM-2 Monitor and Disk/Video interface. Inquiries Welcome.....

Fred, VE3TIG, (905) 576-4839
Apple Macintosh SE - 20 meg hard drive, Image Writer II printer, Claris Works, MicroSoft Word, Mouse, Mousepad, excellent working order, \$150. Mass 6 meter transverter, Frequency: 50 MHz, input frequency: 28 - 30 MHz tuned to: 50.125 MHz, all modes, .01 to 10 watts in, 10 watts out, New \$150. TPL 2 meter linear amplifier Frequency: 136 - 175 MHz, tuned to:147.000 MHz, modulation:FM, 1 watt in 25 watt out, \$50. Henry 2K-4 linear amplifier, uses two 3-500z tubes, covers 10,15, 20, 40 & 80 meter bands, wired for 240 volts ac, spare set of tubes, \$950.

Mike, VE3DKW, (905) 723-7674
The next list is from the estate of VE3AEQ Glen. Cushcraft 2 m. 19 element beam \$80, Cushcraft 432 mhz. 24 element yagi \$35. 2 pcs Heathkit Antenna Dummy Load \$20 each. Large Qty. Assorted Test Equipment, call for info.....100 ft. Andrews 7/8 Heliac with Two connectors \$150. 903 meg. loop yagi , 33 element \$25. Variac 10 amp. \$20. 3480 Volt centre tapped transformer 25 cycle \$25.

Aldo, (905) 432-3923
Yaesu FT-101Transceiver, Yaesu FV-101 External VFO, Yaesu TO-100 Monitor Scope, Landline phonepatch speaker \$650.
WANTED - Manual wanted Kenwood TR-2600 Handie-Talker

Gunter, VE3LHM, (905) 263-2180

WANTED - dopler kit for direction finding.

Send all listings to **VE3FJC, Walter** at (905) 263-2338, by packet at VA3BBS, or by phone at VE3OSH 2 meter repeater.

Hams Helping Hams

Natives in isolated locations. Third world amateur operators. Missionaries on the field. All of these share one thing in common. They are outside the world of conventional support systems.

For such hams, surplus equipment and electronic parts are valuable.

You can help put a ham on the air!
Donations of cash and supplies may be left at the HAMS HELPING HAMS table.

Winston, VE3WFS

March Minutes

Minutes of the NSARC March 11, 1998

Peter VA3PWH opened the meeting at 19.30hrs and immediately turned the meeting over to Mike and Winston for the introduction of our guest speaker Bob Chandler VE3SRE of the Ontario DX association. Bob took us trough his experiences with the association as well as reminding us of the fun of listening to rare DX.

The business portion was very short and Peter VA3PWH mentioned the following points:

- Results of survey will be published
- Laird is upgrading club homepage
- Packet connection to Internet being considered
- Suggestion by some members to have a packet interest group and a special packet column in the bulletin

Peter remitted certificate of achievement to: Charlie VE3UEM, Laird VE3LKS and Ivor VE3JMP.

The meeting was adjourned at 21.30hrs by Les VA3LTB seconded by Earl VE3VGK.

28 present at the meeting

Jean Paul, VE3JPT

Notes from Lindsay ARC

From the LINDSAY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (via Gary, VE3EPY) ...

I received an E-mail note from Ken, VE3KFK, who is the President of the Lindsay area club, asking me to pass along a couple of pieces of information that will be of interest to NSARC members. First, Ken would like to extend an invitation to the NSARC members to attend a presentation on the CANWARN system to be held on Saturday, April 18. As Ken points out in his note, this date unfortunately is the same as our Durham Region Fleamarket date. Attempts were made to try and have the CANWARN presentation moved to a date other than April 18 but it could not be arranged. This date conflict is VERY unfortunate as I myself, as I am sure those of you reading this, would very much like to find out more about the CANWARN system. Hopefully, another presentation can be set up in the near future. So folks, if for some reason you are not going to our fleamarket (shame on you - hi hi), you may want to take in the presentation. Ken says it will run from 0800 to 1600 hours and that there will be a presentation on APRS following the CANWARN presentation. It will be held at Sir Sanford Fleming College. You can sometimes catch Ken, VE3KFK, on the VE3OSH repeater or on the Lindsay repeater (VE3LNZ: 147.195 receive and 147.795 transmit). The other item Ken wanted me to mention is that the Lindsay Fleamarket will be held this year on September 5/98, so mark your calenders!

Gary, VE3EPY

VE3OSH Q&A

Question : "How come we can't get VE3OSH to say anything we want it to say?"

Answer : Thanks for the question. The reason for the restrictions on what we can and can't get VE3OSH to announce is that it has a limited, fixed vocabulary programmed into it as well as a limited amount of memory to store the sentences we create. Although the VE3OSH controller is computer-based, it was designed back around 1987 and used the technology available at that time. Memory was quite expensive back then, relatively speaking, and the goal of computer-based products then was to write as efficient a program as possible to minimize the amount of memory the product required. Contrast this to today's approach of "Let's write the biggest program we can, the bigger the better, who cares how inefficient ... we'll just sell more memory and faster computers!" Well, I digress here a bit but I can't help but wonder what a repeater controller would be like if Bill Gates had designed it? (Hmmm ... better not go there!)

Well, back to the vocabulary stuff ... The designers of the controller produced a vocabulary based on the words they viewed as the most appropriate at the time. Also, as you have probably heard from the repeater, they created words in both a male and female voice. These voices have affectionately been tagged "Romeo and Juliet" in the controller's manual. Only a small portion of the vocabulary is done in the female voice with the bulk of the words done in the male voice. This is why you will hear a combination of male and female words coming from the repeater. An example of this is the recent message I put on about the fleamarket. "See you at the Hamfest Saturday April 18". All but the "18" is in the male voice. The reason for this is that the word "18" is not available in the male vocabulary, only in the female vocabulary. Hence, the combination I had to use.

While we are restricted in a lot of the

sentences we can make up, the vocabulary is pretty good considering the technology used. (about 600 words in total!) There is no way of adding to the vocabulary unless we do so through a custom-made external circuit. This would be quite a costly feature to implement. So, we have to make do with what we have.

I hope these Q&A's are helpful. Please keep the questions coming in.

Gary, VE3EPY
e-mail: ve3epy@rac.ca

The Return of the Backhouse

I tossed my wrench across the bathroom floor in disgust. I cracked the porcelain flange while replacing the beeswax seal. Enough of this!

I have been thinking of building an outdoor commode. One of those quaint old fashioned ones, with a shingle roof and a half moon over the door.

The only problem is, once I get it built...I can see what will happen. Sunday drivers will slow down as they drive by my place. Real Estate agents will deliberately cruise by my home to show the neighbourhood off to prospective customers.

The next door lady will see it out her window, and want one. Before long, there will be a renaissance in backhouses - and like front verandahs, wood stoves, and fireplaces...the outdoor backhouse will emerge on the suburban scene. With housewives, yupees, dinks, x generation types and nouveau riche pensioners., with a sense of nostalgia, rushing to put them up in their gardens.

And of course, human nature being what it is will result in the backhouse becoming an object of status. Polished oak support rails, lacquered wooden seats, interior music systems, colour televisions, water jet and air drying mechanisms will be prominent features.

People will want to barbeque in front of their commodes to show them off. Little patio lights will wind along walkways up to their door. Twinkling, Christmas lights will enamour them.

And, like the hot tub, families and friends will discover the social pleasure of communal relief..

The single hole backhouse will go the way of the hibachi. Before long, three, four and even six holers will become the mark of the smart suburbanite. Round backhouses will feature a circular interior, where families members and friends can face each other, and enjoy greater social intimacy..

And, like the gas barbeque, which has become a portable kitchen on wheels, the smart commode will feature such hot items as gas heating and air conditioning. And, a central lazy Susan, for dispensing, tissue paper, beverages, and magazines, and miniature, individual air deodorizers.

It won't be long before the resurgent backhouse appears on the covers of national home and garden magazines. Politicians and national celebrities will be featured, with their trousers swaddled around their ankles, engaging in casual conversation. And of course, bikini clad models, smiling alluringly from backhouse doorways, will appear on billboards and magazine advertisements.

But like any fad, there will be those who abuse the modern backhouse. There will be stories of heart breaking suicides and repulsive murders. Smutty little tabloids will feature grotesque pictures of villainous creatures with arms blackened to their very elbows. Society will shudder.

Stories will appear in national journals of college students not only vying to see how many can squeeze into a backhouse at the same time, but use it as well.

It won't be long before a possessive, suspicious, social attitude sets in and people began to lock their backhouse

doors. "You can't be having those who are too lazy, or lacking in social taste, to build one for themselves, skulking around at night. Heavens knows what will happen!"

A collective social backhouse neurosis will spin off an enormous trade in burglar alarms. Loud, pre-recorded voices will shout from within dark cavities. "Stand up. Pull up your trousers. Clean yourself immediately. The police are on their way."

The morality of a society which is perceived as 'going down the hole', will be heard from pulpits across the land. And it is likely that anti-backhouse protesters will demand 'cleaner communities' in which to raise children. Debate and possible legislation to restrict or even ban backhouses will be heard across the land.

Opponents, will counter by saying that, there is no statistical evidence to support the claim that backhouses are either habit forming, or injurious to health. But, it will likely take an accidental death in a backhouse to result in public outcry and political demands for seatbelt, and mandatory helmet legislation.

But, like every fad, this too shall pass. The social whim will exhaust itself, like gas on the wind.

Winston, VE3WFS

Help! Help! Help!

Hello all. As you all know the Hamfest is just about 3 weeks away and I'm asking for help to setup and take down also Security people and clean up after the Hamfest. If you can help out in anyway that would be great. I'm looking for help in the Security area the most. As of right now I only have a couple of people and I need at least 10 to 15 people to have all areas covered and relief of anyone that can't stay for the entire day. So if you can help out with security then give me a phone call at 579-7466 and I will put you on my list. Don't forget this is were the club gets it's money to keep going so please help. Thank you all who as helped

in the past and who will help out now in 1998.

Your Hamfest Security Coordinator.
Howard, VE3TYQ

"SPARKS"

Published by the North Shore Radio Club
The Year 1965

*Reprinted from the newsletter "Sparks"
July and August 1965.*

The field day held the last week-end of June was one of the most successful we have had. Harry, ve3qg will give us a report on scores etc at the meeting.

Transmitter hunts are being held most Thursdays starting at 6:30 pm from the Oshawa airport.

Club ragchews are still held Sundays on 3740 at 10:00 hrs and A.R.E.C. callin on Tuesdays at 18:45 hrs same frequency.

Club Dues, Starting January 1, 1996, the fee for regular member will be \$5.00 with no collection taken at meetings.

2 Meter Project, Stan, ve3bsy, has procured most of the larger items for the transceiver in bulk. Ken, ve3fpp, has been distributing the parts and tells us that five members have not picked up their parts.

D.O.T. exams Doreen, ve3fur, was successful in obtaining her Advanced Amateur Cert. Jack, ve3gek, passed the amateur proficiency and received his call.

Several club members took part in a recent moon bounce project, headed we believe by Mike, ve3dkw.

Did you know that there are now 11,280 licenced hams in Canada?

If you have any news items for "Sparks" call Ron, VE3AIY or Ted, VE3ADD.

More NSARC history coming your way in the future.

Peter, VE3ZZV

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker will be Lee Elston VE3TLE. He will be speaking on the topic of packet and the internet. So if you have questions on packet and the link to the Internet for E-mail please be there and listen and ask questions. It should be a very enjoyable evening for all.

Howard, VE3TYQ