

NORTH SHORE ARC

Box 171, Oshawa, ON, Canada, L1H 7L1
www.osha.igs.net/~Isolomon/nsarc.htm

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1998

Y2K...Are You Ready?

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Vice President	Alan, VA3ALN
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October Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 19 at the RCAF Club at the Oshawa Airport. We had our September meeting at this facility and overall it was a great place to meet. As you go into the airport, just after you pass the jet fighter, turn right. If you pass the armoured tank on the left you have gone too far.

No program info as of publishing deadline.

From the Chair in the Shack

Another summer has passed and here we are meeting again. The club looks to be in quite good shape and we are preparing to start working to make it even more worthwhile. Our new meeting place is just one of the things we hope will make the club more interesting. As of this writing, we have not yet met there so I'm not sure that everyone is entranced. It does offer more space in spades. If we decided to have a variety of interests bring their stuff for a show and tell, we would have several corners for setups to tempt people. If we are lucky, we might get to hold field-day there as well. The public would certainly be able to find and visit us there. Parking is also a major benefit, being within steps of the building and no elevator to worry about.

We are hoping to attract new members this year by actively offering memberships to students in ham radio classes. When some of these people show up at meetings, we know that you will want to introduce yourself if for no other reason than to brag about your shack and special interests. By the way, why not set yourself the goal of persuading one ham who is not a current member to come out for another or a new look at the club. Every one of us can bring something to the club if we bring another potential member.

This year the club has undertaken another public service communications job at a mountain-bike event in the Ganaraska forest. VE3CRK, Ralph has done a good deal of homework and is planning on setting up a cross band repeater to handle the difficult terrain of the course, whose longest circuit is 100 km. For those who can spare time during the year, public service events can be very satisfying. You meet lots of nice people, enjoy enforced relaxation most of the time and often get a treat to eat. As well, you get the chance to show what ham radio is all about and to earn the right to some of the spectrum we have the privilege of using. Not everyone has the time but some do. Try it, you might like it.

Peter, VA3PWH

NSARC Celebrates Canada Day!

(or Martha's revenge ???)

Eleven members of the NSARC and one guest provided a great demonstration and display of amateur radio during the July 1st Canada Day celebrations at the Lakefront park in Oshawa.

Many thanks to Bob VE3ADJ, Ann VE3KWI (the MUCH BETTER half of Bob), Ralph VE3CRK, Glen VE3LIZ, Les VA3LTB, Peter VA3PWH, Martha VA3SBD, Martha's friend (sorry Martha, I have forgotten her name), Howard VE3TYQ, Mike VE3VCY and Winston VE3WFS for giving up their time to spend the day showcasing amateur radio to the public. You folks made it a great success!

Extra thanks to Glen VE3LIZ and Bob VE3ADJ who put together a nice display of APRS for all to see and to Peter

VA3PWH for the loan of the rig and his home-brew dipole. They worked great! The total contacts made were 86 which included almost all of Canada, we only missed out on Northwest Territories, P.E.I. and New Brunswick. Yes, we even made it to the Yukon! Some of the contacts that were made "slightly farther out" included Columbia, Lithuania, Italy, Florida, Louisiana, Azores, Arizona, Tennessee and California. The bands we worked were 80, 40, 20 and 15m.

The day could not pass by without us having a little fun. At one point during Howard's session at the rig, he received a call from VE3LIZ portable VE3. It took Howard just a bit of time to realize that it was in fact Glen, who was standing about twenty feet away (just out of view) using his handheld which he had linked through his UHF repeater to his HF rig at home! I'm not exactly sure how Glen "read" the "S" meter to give Howard the 59 report but I better leave that as one of those great mysteries in life!

Later on, I think it was during Ann's turn at the rig when Martha came running over to me yelling "Chumbawumba ... Chumbawumba". I replied "Great work folks but where is that country located?". Martha then explained to me that it wasn't a rare DX station that Ann had worked but the music group that was currently being broadcast on the FM radio! Now for those of you that read my article about the "GOAT" confusion at the Walk-A-Dog-A-Thon back in 1997, you will recall that I got a bit confused then as I did this time. Martha, I think there must be something wrong with my receiver (brain) in that when you reported to me about the Chumbawumba, I took it as a country worked. (my daughters have since enlightened me on the joys of listening to Chumbawumba ... have I even spelled it right?) I guess I might have a tube blown (or would that be a transistor ???) up in my head ... Oh well, I am getting old you know! Anyway, a good time was had by all and the weather was perfect!

Again, many thanks to all that helped out! I sure hope I haven't missed anybody. (there's that burnt out transistor again!) For your information, I have already discussed with the coordinators the possibility of us having an even better location to set up at next year so we'll wait and see what happens. I did receive a nice note from the City of Oshawa folks thanking us for our participation and inviting us back again next year! 73 for now.

Gary, VE3EPY

From the Editor...

This summer I went away on vacation for two weeks and when I returned I found that I had been elected to be the Y2K project leader for the hospital that I work for. I guess they figured that the geeks in the information technology department would know all about this stuff. Because of this newly bestowed project, I was fortunate to be able to attend a three day workshop on Y2K featuring presenters from organizations such as BOMA (Building Owners Management

Association) from Washington, DC, Pricewaterhouse Coopers from Toronto, and several other respected consulting firms. Over the next few months I am going to be concentrating on Y2K and some of the big issues surrounding it. Believe it or not, it even affects Amateur Radio, but more on that later..

Laird, VE3LKS

What is Y2K?!

Simply put, Y2K stands for Year Two Thousand, but that is where the simplicity ends. What does this mean to us? Potentially the widest spread man-made disaster of all time. No, the Millenium Bug, as it is being affectionately nicknamed, is not a new model from Volkswagen.

Many people are taking a laid back approach to Y2K thinking "so what if my PC thinks its 1900 instead of 2000". That is fine for the home user where you probably would not have any mission critical software or hardware that may be a potential problem. However, to date, not one electrical utility supplier is Y2K compliant in North America (that includes Ontario Hydro) and they can not even give an estimate on when they will be compliant. I quickly realized that contingency planning was going to be the biggest problem that we all will face. What if the software that controls the reactors at nearby Pickering shuts down the system because at the stroke of midnight it thinks that no maintenance has been performed for 100 years. It sounds silly, but there is that potential. All of a sudden you will not be worried about your PC anymore as you will be without power in the middle of winter. This is probably the worst case scenario as without electricity you would very soon run out of water pressure, gas would not flow through the lines, and basically you would be camping in January...brrrrrr. Utility suppliers for water and gas have backup generators to keep them going for a short black outs, but as was learned in the recent ice storms, they will not last forever. Make sure you have a few extra cord of fire wood for the woodstove. Basically you have to follow the Boy Scouts motto.."Be Prepared". You had better plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Governments and companies from around the world are learning a lot from what happened during the ice storm last winter and gleaning valuable information as to how to prepare for the worst. Basically, the worst happened last winter in these storms when essential services were nowhere to be seen. So, the ice storm is now being looked upon as the silver lining in that it has given us a test run of our emergency procedures and provided us with valuable information on surviving.

Y2K problems do not start and end at New Years, however. As early as September 9, 1999 we could see software and systems failing. Programmers, you see, quite often used 9999 as a stop code in their software. September 9, 1999 is 9999. Ooops! Then there is the leap year thing on Feb

29, 2000. We have tested some hospital equipment that simply puts in question marks for a date as it is totally confused. Luckily it does not shut it down but dates are wrong on any streaming tapes that are produced.

So, will Y2K affect us adversely? Well, let's just hope for the best, but plan for the worst...and hopefully the only thing on New Years Eve to come down will be the ball at Times Square.

Laird, VE3LKS

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ve3sz@rac.ca	Scott, VE3SZ

Confucius say;

"Easy to tell man who really likes to hear himself talk.
More antennas on car, more man talk."

Les, VA3LTB

Swap Shop

John, VE3VGI, (705) 939-1946

Kenwood AT 200 Antenna Tuner \$130.

Gord, VE3UIB, (905) 571 7068

Stripline Filter for 2 meters \$25. Arrow 144 meg. 3 element beam, portable beam \$75. R/S HTX 202 144 meg. handie, manual and charger, battery case \$180. Kantronics KPC-3 Plus, TNC. manuals \$150. 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. Jaybeam MBM 88/70 cm \$60. M2 2MCP14 2m. Crossed Yagi \$150. Kenpro KR-500 elevation rotor & control \$300. Kenpro KR-400 Azimuth rotor & control \$300. Microwave Modules 432 MHZ -100 watt linear \$300. IC271 2m.all mode transceiver, P/S, mike and manual \$750. IC471 70cm all mode transceiver, P/S, mike and manual \$750. Landwehr 2m Pre-amp, mast mount \$210. TE-Systems 70cm 100 watt linear & Preamp. \$450. L.L. Grace Kansas City Tracker and Tuner. Package includes PC interface card, interface connector and software \$450.

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....100ft 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.

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

Swiss Air Tragedy Amateur Radio at the Scene

A first hand account by Joe McPherson, VE1CH
Good Morning All:

This is a quick update on the Swiss Air tragedy with emphasis on amateur radio and Candaian Red Cross involvement. I have addressed this EMAIL to the RAC Board as well as others who have communicated with me or who have a specific interest in what has been going on. An article will be done for TCA, with photos, when the dust settles.

Within approximately 2 hours after the crash (and after many of us including yours truly was very sound asleep), the Emergency Measures Co-ordinator, for Halifax Regional Municipality Barry Manuel initiated a call-out to members of the HRM - EMO Amateur Radio Group. The call was initiated through Dave George who is the contact man for EMO and RAC Emergency Coordinator for the Halifax area. The Director of the Nova Scotia Region, Canadian Red Cross, John Byrne actived the Disaster Response Team (DRT) including the Telecoms Officer (me) and directed us to report to the site and join the ERV at that location.

Amateurs were dispatched to the site (Command bus) at Peggy's Cove and were asked to establish telecommunications between the site and a net control station downtown. Amateurs were also sent to CFS Shearwater (the location of the temporary morgue), and to several other staging areas which were subsequently moved or closed down as more accurate information on WHAT had happened and WHERE it had happened filtered in. Our emergency ID cards and vehicle identification cards were IMPERATIVE to gain access to both the outer and inner perimeter and worked 'like a charm'.
In my capacity as Telecommunications Officer for the Canadian Red Cross, I called in members of the Senior Amateur Radio Association to activate the communications centre at the Canadian Red Cross Headquarters in downtown Halifax and also set up telecommunications links (amateur and other) between the on site Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) of the Red Cross, the Command Post, Red Cross HQ and the net control station.
Amateurs at the Command Post were kept very busy interfacing between the on-site commander, the military and

just about everyone else who the site commander needed to talk to. Approximately 20 amateurs made themselves available and a shift roster was set up for twenty-four hour operation by the network control station. Two repeaters were used in the operation, one for traffic handling, the other for personnel coordination and assignment. A half-hourly 'canned' announcement that there was an emergency net in operation, as well as strict control by the net control operator, maintained tight control over the frequencies.

Amateur operators were also asked to provide emergency HF links to the military and naval ships engaged in the search and were also asked to establish communications on Channel 16 (marine emergency frequency -156.8 MHz). The channel 16 link was used on several occasions, however, I am not aware of whether the HF was used although it was available. A call was also made for anyone with a CB radio so that the Command Post could communicate with the many fishing boats involved in the search and not equipped with marine VHF radio.

The response was both fast and efficient considering the hour and the number of people needed. As is the case with any large scale emergency of this type, there is always some initial confusion (not by the amateurs who did what they were asked to do) but by those engaged in attempting to find a suitable set-up point because of the changing reports on the location of the debris field etc. The entire operation was moved from the Blanford area near Hubbards, to Peggy's Cove when the exact position of the debris field became known. This resulted in a mad scramble to relocate approximately 25 kilometres up the coast. The weather was not very cooperative throughout the night (heavy rain) and the seas were churned-up somewhat by the aftermath of the hurricane. The seas were about 10 feet high at times with moderate to strong wind.

The place was over-run by news folks who interviewed EVERYBODY and I would not be surprised if the owner's dog at the Sou Wester Restaurant at Peggy's Cove was asked for an opinion. There were at least 25 satellite links using Hughes trucks and suitcase MSAT, INMARSAT and INTELSAT terminals. Surprisingly the cell site was able to handle much of the traffic (including multiple calls from Switzerland and the USA). The cell site was overloaded from time to time but generally worked well. Because of the International implications of this disaster, there were MANY foreign press people speaking multiple languages racing around with mics and cameras.

This was the first time the new \$96K ERV was used by the Red Cross and the first time that the 4 watt UHF portables (which were licensed on September 1st) were used in an actual operation. The portables were used in simplex mode to maintain contact with key Red Cross officials as well as to link with the command bus (as a backup to amateur radio). The extensive training provided to members of the HRM-EMO team over the past year really paid off. Radio

procedures were excellent and I heard MANY reports from senior officials at the site how well the amateurs performed. The Command Bus, a modified 48 passenger bus, was divided in two with the back half of the bus being used as the amateur radio and marine radio link. The front half housed the site commander, an RCMP Staff Sergeant, the EMO Coordinator and at times key officials of the Transportation Safety Board including Benoit Bouchard, senior Fire and Rescue people and the RCMP telecom link. The Provincial EOC was also staffed by HRM trained amateur radio operators and to the best of my knowledge they are there 24/7 like the rest of us.

At any given time there were at least 600 people on the site and literally HUNDREDS lined up along the roadway and thankfully blocked from access at the RCMP outer perimeter. Thankfully, Regional and RCMP spokespersons handled the multitude of questions being asked. Family members started to arrive late yesterday and a whole gang of them are expected to arrive today from Switzerland and the USA. Rooms in the Halifax area are at a premium as are psychologists and just about anybody that looks like a priest, minister or rabbi. Critical stress debriefing teams have also been dispatched to deal with trauma by those responsible for picking body parts out of the water. Don't mean to be too graphic, just trying to paint a picture for you. Thankfully, most of us did not have to get within eye or smell range of what was being brought ashore. For continuity of evidence purposes, the RCMP keep a very tight control of the situation at the dock area.

It is currently 0500 on Friday morning and most of us have had at least three or four hours sleep since this operation began. At the moment, operations are on hold for the night although the Command Bus amateur radio station is currently staffed as is the Net Control Station downtown and Provincial NSEMO. Operations resume at first light with numerous amateurs scheduled to work throughout the day and perhaps for several more days. This operation could go on for days since MOST of the bodies are believed to still be in the main part of the plane submerged in several fathoms of water.

Although amateur and Red Cross operations went pretty smooth all things considered, we all learned lessons that will not soon be forgotten and will be used to update and streamline our operating procedures and equipment. I am scheduled to go back to the site later on this morning so if any of you have questions or responses to this EMail, I probably will not be available to respond for a day or two. 73's to all of you and thanks for the E-mails. Sorry I could not respond sooner.

Joe MacPherson, VE1CH

Open Letter to the NSARC and SPARC Clubs

From Ian Smith, VE3ITG

Hello Everyone!

Another Hamfest season is about to get underway. 1998 was a success in many ways. If you attended, you know how large the Hamfest has grown. We are now occupying 40,000 sq. ft. at the Metro East Trade Centre. Our reputation as Canada's largest Hamfest is engraved in stone.

In 1998, our revenue from public attendees and super prize draws was down vs. 1997. Vendor participation and some major expenses were up. The overall result was a \$2,600 profit for each club, down significantly from 1997.

For 1999, the Hamfest committee has some positions that MUST be filled in order for the event to continue. Without these required positions, there will be NO Hamfest in 1999. For potential volunteers, I have listed the job functions of the committee participants. You can see that when the workload is split amongst a large group of people, the workload is lighter. In addition, we meet once a month. With the new Assistant positions added, the workload for everyone is reduced. Ask anyone who has been a volunteer on the committee -- it's fun and rewarding!

NOTE: If positions indicated by (+++) are not filled by October 31, 1998, there will not be a 1999 hamfest.

Be a volunteer! Give me a call at (905) 427-4873.

Thank you!

Ian Smith VE3ITG
Hamfest Coordinator

+++ Required Prior to October 31, 1998.
++ Required by January 31, 1999
+ Required by March 31, 1999

Coordinator (filled)

Asst. Coordinator +++

- Organize & fill positions
- Provide continuity between positions
- Act as contact person to "the outside world"
- Provide both clubs with status and updates
- Act as liaison for any major transaction
- Design layout for event

Administration (filled)

- Deal with suppliers for event items (tables, chairs, etc)
- Maintain supplies for event day (markers, tape, etc)
- Organize event day cash persons and prize ticket sellers

Treasurer +++

Assistant Treasurer (filled)

- Request operational funds for the season
- Provide financial updates
- Administers financial matters including accounts receivable / accounts payable

Registration (filled)

Asst. Registration ++

- Produce & mail registration forms for Manufacturers, Commercial and Public vendors
- Record registrations and assign location
- Transfer funds to treasurer identifying source of funds
- Mail documentation to participating vendors
- Administer incoming vendors on event day

Security (filled)

Asst. Security ++

- Organize event day security for all access points, parking lot and cash locations
- Allocate event frequencies for staff

Door Prize (filled)

Asst. Door Prize ++

- Visit local businesses to solicit contributions
- Maintain list of contributors for publication and correspondence
- Display and administer distribution of prizes

Master of Ceremonies +

(Voice of the hamfest)

- Provide a strong presence to the room and provide continuity
- Administer any required announcements

Advertising (filled)

- Publicize the Hamfest with the media

Webpage (filled)

- Administer the Hamfest on the Internet

Printing Systems (filled)

- Reproduce hamfest printing requirements

Flyer Distribution (filled)

- Distribute flyers to distribution points

Upcoming Events

ODXA Radio Fest '98, Ontario DX Association (ODXA)
Starts on Friday, October 2, 1998

QCWA Southern Ontario Chapter 73 Meeting
Quarter Century Wireless Club, Chapter No. 73
Saturday, October 17, 1998

Hamilton Hamfest '98, Hamilton ARC
Saturday, October 17, 1998

Durham Region Amateur Radio Hamfest (24th Annual)
Saturday, April 17, 1999

Smiths Falls Fleamarket (15th annual), Rideau Lakes ARC
Starts on Saturday, April 24, 1999,

The Info Page

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Les, VA3LTB 571-1458

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Nonquon Canoe Races

Glen Goslin, VE3LIZ 725-1545

Field Day

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Auditor

Rick Gibson, VE3ASH 434-2886

Canadian National Exhibition

Winston Seeney, VE3WFS 725-0829

J.O.T.A.

Ries Wytenburg, VE3UEA 434-5550

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Club Photographer

Don Foster, VE3GXH 985-2668

NSARC Web Site

<http://www.osha.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc.htm>

Club Repeaters

2m	147.120	VE3OSH	Voice
70cm	443.000	VE3NAA	Voice
2m	144.970	VE3USH	Packet

Net and Code Practice

Club Net every Thursday at 1930 with CW practice.

EMO Net every Wednesday at 2030 on VE3OSH.

Club Meetings

The second Tuesday of every month at 1930 hours we meet at the Red Cross office in the Oshawa Centre. Take the mall elevator by Sears to the second floor. Give a call on 147.120 for directions.

NSARC 1998 Calendar



D.R.A.R.E.O.

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Meaningless bits of information - this newsletter is laid out using WordPerfect 6.1 for Windows and the original copy is printed on a Brother HL-660 laser printer. Also, if you happen to have any complaints you are more than welcome to become the next bulletin Editor. Seriously, all constructive criticism will be accepted and treated accordingly. If you would like to see more technical articles then get the lead out and get writing. I can write till I'm blue in the face about computers and some of it you can apply to Amateur Radio but it would be nice to see some technical stuff as well.

**Please send any
updates to this list
to Laird, VE3LKS.**