

NORTH SHORE ARC

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

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1998

Merry Christmas!

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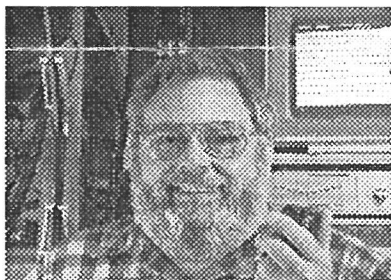
December Meeting

See you at the RCAF building at the Oshawa Airport.
Meeting is on the third Monday of the Month at 1930hrs.

From the Chair in the Shack

VA3PWH, Peter

As the festive season charges into full swing, it seems a good time to reflect on NSARC so that we can all make New Year's resolutions.



Now that we are in our new more comfortable quarters, meetings can take on a much more relaxed atmosphere than previously. Imagine how pleased I was to unfurl my telescopic mast without hitting anyone. Most of us can see how we might accommodate several demonstrations at a time to allow members to choose what interests them most. Each of us has a particular special interest which we can show off with some pride. If a "newbie" like me can get away with showing experienced hams antennas, then all of us can bring something.

The part of the meeting that I enjoy most is the coffee break where we can chat, pick each others brains for help, discuss hot issues and meet visitors. I hope that you like it too although it looks like most of you do.

It is most important that we meet as friends and discuss plans for the future in an open minded spirit. There are many things that we can do better if members will take time to help. Field Day is an example. If we hold the event close to the airport, we can expect many visitors. This means great care for safety, good operating demonstrations, folks who will explain the hobby/service to visitors, plans for layout to allow visitors to move around the site easily and other considerations. Perhaps a committee will be the way to make it go. Field day should provide fun for members, interest for the public and a feeling in City Hall that letting us operate there has been a good idea. We will be building on the success of last year's July 1 event.

If we are successful in our efforts to put amateur radio in the public eye, we can expect more members, more help in locating repeaters if we need sites, more recognition of the role we will play in the event of a disaster (hope not, but...).

If I read the members correctly, I think that there is a return of interest and enthusiasm and, I hope, a return of lost members. Let's tell them how much we miss them. They might want to start with the Saturday breakfast at Momma's. This is a way to make contact without having to come to a meeting and feel obligated to pay up on the spot. Since we do miss them and do welcome them, here is a place to start. See you there!

For hf enthusiasts, Sean, VE3PSV is looking for controllers for Dec. 24 and 31 for the Quebec Radio Net. I'm sure he would like a call any time he is on any of the many nets. If we gave 1% of what that man gives to the hobby, we would be saints. Amen.

Hamfest meetings have been frequent and thought provoking this year. With some luck, we will be seeing more in the way of income since we are working on a plan to involve more manufacturers. Since the usual Pickering Flea Market will be running that Saturday, we are hoping to attract more visitors as well. Details may be available after the New Year begins. Wish us luck in changing the pattern

some to increase revenues. The traditional hamfest will still be there but with some changes (we believe). More income will allow a stable fee structure over the long run even if expenses increase. Fingers crossed?

Wishing all a happy festive season,

73 de Pete

Paul's 3rd Annual Eduro Mountain Bike Race

On Sunday, September 27, 1998 the above race was held in the Ganaraska Forest and was organized by Rob Cox and his wife, Monique, along with the help of many volunteers. The proceeds are going to the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Rob approached me in August about the possibility of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club providing the communications for this event. I contacted club President Peter, VA3PWH, who said we would be happy to provide communications for this occasion and asked me to head it up.

A week before, with the help of Glen, VE3LIZ, and Peter, VA3PWH, we went to the Ganaraska Forest to examine the locations of the check points that they wanted communications established. All points were fine, except the registration location which was at the bottom of a very big hill and next to a duck pond. To overcome this problem, we decided to use a mobile as a repeater in cross band mode on a nearby hill. The two bands to be used were the 440 band for all the check points and the 2 meter band at the registration desk, St. John Ambulance, start line and net control.

The night before the event we had a wild thunderstorm. The next morning it was also raining and by the time the race was to start the rain had stopped and the weather was clearing. It later developed into a beautiful sunny day. The net was controlled by Michael Maclean, VE3VCY. It was his first acting as a net controller and he did a great job! Don foster, VE3GXH, was located at the start line and after the race began he was available for other communication duties in the parking and registration area. Howard Mugford, VE3TYQ, was stationed with the St. John Ambulance. Howard hooked up a radio so they could listen to our communication and be ready for any emergencies. On check point one, known as E2, we had Peter Henry, VA3PWH, and Alex Parker, VA3AMP. Peter came back from his cottage for this event and Alex was the first amateur to volunteer. On check point two, or P5 on the map, was Gary Heagle, VE3EPY. Gary's mobile was going to be the repeater, but we had a few people who had to cancel out at the last minute, so Gary ended up at check point tow by himself. (Guess whose mobile was used for the repeater?) The final check point three, known as W1, was maned by

Joe Stratton, VE3VGJ, who traveled more miles to get to the sight then the competitors did. His backup was Glen Goslin, VE3LIZ, who thought he knew how to get there, but took the wrong road and finally arrived later that morning.

Our club members were appreciated for their long day of service by the Dirty Enduro racers and organizers. The communications were the bet yet (Canadian Armed Forces did it last year) and they want us back again next year. As for me, I got to delegate all the jobs and accept the credit on behalf of the club. Thanks guys!

Ralph Day, VE3CRK

Fred's Amateur Radio Classes

Start: Wednesday Feb. 3rd at 7:00 P.m. for 10 weeks / Last class Apr.10th, 1999
Where: Library - R.S. McLaughlin Collegiate
570 Stevenson Road North

Contact: Fred Bengel (905) 576-4839
E-MAIL: ve3tig@idirect.com

Description: 10 weeks, no morse code required, Industry Canada examination on last night of the course. Text book not included
Cost: \$75.00 - includes one year FREE membership in the NSARC!

NSARC E-Mail Addresses

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VE3OSH & VE3NAA Repeater Update

Hi folks. I just wanted to update you on a couple of things that are happening (or not happening as the case may be) with the repeaters, VE3OSH and VE3NAA. First, with regards to VE3OSH, I'd like to extend our thanks to Kevin, VA3THB, for his valuable assistance in helping us out by checking over the antenna and tower at the site. Recently, Kevin inspected the antenna and then checked that all the bolts were at the correct torque rating. I wasn't told if there was anyone else at the site assisting you Kevin, but if there was, we'll say a big thank you to them as well whoever they are! I don't know how many of you folks out there are able to climb towers but I for one really admire this ability. There's something that is programmed into my knees that seems to say "if height above ground on tower equals 20 feet, then give out!". Just sitting here as I write this, thinking of Kevin's ability to climb to the 90 foot height (give or take a few feet), has my knees executing the above program! Thanks again Kevin!

With regards to VE3NAA, yes it is still off the air. (at least as of this writing, Dec. 1) Everyone has likely heard the "Repeater VE3NAA off for repairs" message that has been broadcasting from VE3OSH for quite some time now. This message is not quite correct now but is the best we can come up with given the limited synthesized vocabulary we have to work with. Actually, the technical problem with VE3NAA (was in its controller) was fixed within two weeks of us getting our hands on it. The unfortunate real problem with VE3NAA at the moment is one of access to the site. As most of you may be aware, we do not own nor do we have a key to the site where VE3NAA lives. The repeater committee has been trying to link up with the site technician several times (and we have come close a few times!) but we are still at the mercy of his schedule. So, please be aware that as soon as the timing becomes right, we will get VE3NAA back into operation. Then, we can change the message on VE3OSH to something else!

Folks, if you have any questions with regards to either the VE3OSH or the VE3NAA repeaters, please send them to me. I'd be happy to try and answer them. If you have E-mail, you can send them to me at "heagle@sympatico.ca" or you can call me at 905-686-1512 or you can see me at the meetings.

73 from Gary, VE3EPY
(for the Repeater Technical Committee)

What's the Future of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications in the High Tech Era?

More and more often, it's been thought, in side the Amateur community and out, that new technology is making Amateur Radio less and less significant in Emergency Communications – if not obsolete. Trunked municipal communications systems, cellular telephones and even the Internet are being named as services that will take the place of Amateur communications in an emergency. At the regional workshop of the United Nations Working group held in Trinidad last year, of the United Nations Working group on Emergency Telecommunications Amateur Radio was still a key component. More than 20 countries participated. Early in the workshop, Amateur Radio became a dominant theme of discussion. Disaster and telecommunications officials from several countries recounted their actual experiences in natural disasters, particularly hurricanes, where Amateur radio provided the first communications within and from a hard-hit area.

"Radio Amateurs are spread throughout the Caribbean area and therefore are already in before strikes; They have established ties with one another; and they provided their service at no cost to financially strapped governments and disaster response agencies.

By contrast, presentation on mobile satellite services, which, in theory could provide as good or better functionality, received somewhat lukewarm receptions.

"The expense of using satellite services and the fact that they are not yet proven quantities contributed to skepticism." When TWA Flight 800 went down off Long Island in July 1996, cellular phone quickly became unusable in the area as the demand exceeded the supply of channels. The story is very similar in the case of Swiss Air crash of the east coast of Canada this past fall.

"This was not the result of a shortage of frequencies. Rather, the cellular infrastructure was designed for a carefully calculated *normal* load and could not handle the sudden surge in demand.

Amateurs provided extended communications services all thought the ICE STORM '98 while the phone systems, both traditional land lines and cellular were out.

In our own small-scale exercise here in Durham – Pickering 95, The phone system within the agencies became over loaded early in the exercise.

By its very nature, disaster planning must assume that some resources will not be available. The Solution is decentralization of communication capabilities and resources - exactly the formula that Radio Amateurs have used so well for many years.

So, *is* there a continuing role for the Amateur Radio in Emergency communications? There certainly is!

As new developments in radio communications become part of our daily life, the more devastating any interruption to them. All the more the necessary for an Amateur Radio Emergency Service, staffed with knowledgeable, organized and well-equipped volunteers.

(Extracted from RAC November '97)

Ries, VE3UEA

NSARC Christmas Party!

Monday, December 21, 19:30

RCAF Building at the Airport

Swap Shop

Jack, VA3JFW (905) 571-5334

FR 101 Yaesu Receiver, needs work, \$50. no manual.
TRC-47 CB radio converted to 10 meters \$20. Heathkit rcvr works but needs work , model no. unkown. FREE.

Rick, VE3ZTP (905)404 0084

WANTS a HF Antenna Tuner with a SWR meter to handle 500 Watts.

Howard, VE3TYQ, (905) 579-7466

MFJ 1270C TNC - 2 meter & HF , manual,P/S , programs \$100. XT computer keyboard, monitor \$25. 386SX25 4 meg ram, VGA monitor, keyboard, mouse,43 meg. hard drive, one speed CD rom \$200.

Walter, VE3FJC, (905) 263-2338

Sale Kenwood General Coverage Receiver, Model R 1000. Its digital readout, solid state, 200KHZ to 30 MHZ. \$250. Yeasu FT 107 HF transceiver, solid state, digital readout, manual, mic, and marching FT 107-E power supply-speaker for \$550. VE3FJC also LOOKING for Heathkit knobs abt 1" dia. Green with siver skirt. FT 890 transceiver with Auto Tuner, Perfect condition, mic manual, box. \$1100. FIRM.

Josef, VE3FVH, (905) 655-3009

One 2inch by 10 feet long fibreglass boom \$110. 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. 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 432 mhz. 24 element yagi \$35. 903 meg. loop yagi 33 element \$25.

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