

# Monthly Update

## September 2019

### September Club Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, Sep 17, 5:30pm  
**Where:** Purple Woods Conservation Area



Anne VE3KWI and Larry VA3FHG catching up  
should go away hungry. All we ask is that club members bring a small side dish, such as salad, veggies, dessert, etc, to help round out the table. Pack a lawn chair and invite an Amateur or radio enthusiast, who is not a member, to join us for a great evening of food and socializing.

Is there a better way to kick off a new season of club meetings than our annual **Sermon on the Mount Corn Roast and BBQ**? The early Fall is a favorite time of year and enjoying some ripened corn, dipped in butter and sprinkled with salt, is a great way to do it. We will also have burgers and sausages so no one

### June Meeting – Summer Kick Off BBQ



Another successful Summer Kick Off BBQ was held at the repeater site. This is our annual event to mark the beginning of summer and to break from our regular meeting cycle. Many hands make light work and this event is no exception. **Doug VA3DCE** and **Joe VE3VGJ** are the grill masters making sure that no one has an excuse to go home hungry. Add some of the XYLS and other Amateurs into the fray, like **Diane (VE3PWJ XYL)**, **Lois (VA3RTV XYL)**, **Dianne VE3JAW**, **Jackie VA3BTQ** and **Martha VA3SBD** and we have a top notch team of culinary experts that make the event run smooth like butter. For more pics of this event [click here](#).

### Field Day!

Hats off to **Daren VE3NMD**, our new Field Day coordinator, whose first North Shore Field Day went off amazingly well. Thanks, as well, to all the members who stepped up to help **Darren** in this endeavor. To see pics of this event [click here](#).



Robert VE3IRB and Daren VE3NMD

Below is the report that **Daren** submitted to the ARRL.

Call Used: VE3NSR  
GOTA Station Call: (NONE)  
ARRL/RAC Section: GTA  
Class: 4A  
Participants: 25  
Club/Group Name: North Shore Amateur Radio Club - Oshawa ON  
Power Source(s): Generator  
Power Multiplier: 2X  
**Preliminary Total Score: 2,180**  
Bonus Points:  
100% emergency power 400  
Public location 100  
Public information table 100  
W1AW Field Day message 100  
Site visit by invited elected official 100  
Site visit by invited served agency 100  
Social media 100  
Entry submitted via web 50  
Total bonus points **1,050**  
Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	274	0	17	
Total Points	548	0	17	565
Claimed Score = (QSO points x power multiplier) = <b>1,130</b>				

We need to check with the ARRL to see if there are any multipliers for trying to tune up a BBQ on 17m. I could have sworn I saw someone trying to do this!

We hope that we did not stress **Daren** out too much and that he will be willing to be the Field Day coordinator again next year.

### Repeater News

Even though it is summer we have somehow found an excuse to head up to White Feather Farm for breakfast, and then on to the repeater to do some maintenance, quite a few times this summer. The list of things done is long and if I miss anything or anyone please forgive me. So, in no particular order, here we go.

**Painting** – the Italians can lay claim to Michelangelo and the doodles that he did a few hundred years ago. However, we have Laryangelo, his long lost relative.



Larry VE3LWJ preparing his canvases.

**Larry VE3LWJ** took it upon himself to paint the wood threshold of the repeater shack and then, when some repairs were made to the generator shack, did some painting there too. His next project is to paint the ceiling of the repeater shack showing the radiant heavens above with towers and antennas reaching up into the ether.

**Vent repair** – in the generator shack we noticed that some of the concrete, that was used to secure the air vents, was deteriorating and falling out. The building concrete itself is fine but the company used patch concrete, after the fact, when they installed the vents. **Joe VE3VGJ** jumped in, without mentioning anything to anyone, and made some sills

out of wood and installed them to fill the gaps. **Joe** also put a bead of silicone around the edges, both inside and out, and **Larry VE3LWJ** broke out his paint brush again and did his thing.



**Generator throttle mod** – **Bob VE3HIX** noticed that when the generator fired up that it would try to start at full throttle and then knock itself down. This was causing the generator to spit and sputter when starting causing a delay in coming up to full operational mode. After some experimentation he discovered that it started up a lot smoother if it was throttled back a bit. So, after some thought **Bob** came up with a mechanical fix that would limit the movement of the throttle and it is working just great. This now gives us an excuse, I mean reason, to head to White Feather on the weekend as we need to monitor this and see how it responds to weather change. Hopefully, it will work equally as well in the dead of winter at -30.

**Clean up** – we are lucky to have our very own Mr. Clean, **Jimmy VE3SOI**, to keep the repeater and generator shacks spotless. Every time we go up there we track all sorts of dirt and grass into the buildings but **Jimmy** is diligent and makes sure it is in tip top shape for the next visit. As well, we took a few old e-waste items away to be recycled as they were of no use to us and just taking up space.



**New Battery** – on a recent trip to the repeater we noticed that the generator was not firing up during its normal test schedule. **Jeffrey VA3RTV** quickly diagnosed that the battery was toast and made a quick trip to the Canadian Tire in Port Perry with **Jimmy VE3SOI** to get a replacement. The old battery had a date of 2013 on it so it was due to be replaced.

## Ride 4 United Way

**Larry VA3FHG** once again organized the communications for the Ride 4 United Way bicycle event. This is a large fundraiser for the United Way and they had 25k, 60k, 100k and 160k routes heading north out of Whitby and venturing as far north as Udora. There were radio operators at several check points, feed stations, in repair and general observation vehicles as well as net control back at the events start/finish location.



For the last few years we have had a drastically different route each year. This has mostly been due to the 407 being extended out to the 35/115 so each year has brought different challenges. Hopefully, next year will be the last time that the route will have to make changes, if any, and maybe we can settle down to a set route again. Of course, we do live in Canada where there are only two seasons – winter and construction – so we will have to see.

We felt especially sorry for **Martha VA3SBD** this year who drew the unenviable task of having to set up a station in Goodwood right outside of Annina's Bakery. We have promised her that she will not have to do it again next year.

There were no human mishaps this year but one fellow did manage to break his very expensive bike frame. No, there was no spectacular event that caused this to happen. He was dismounting from his bike at a feed station and fell onto the side of the frame, which is the weakest part, and snapped it pretty good. Another lady broke five spokes on her wheel. Those were the only calls to have vehicles dispatched to return riders to the start/finish so it was a pretty boring day – which is what we like. The only other near catastrophe was that the person from the United Way who was supposed to pick up bananas, for the feed stations, did so but bought bright green ones and not yellow ones. Since they are not ripe they are not good for riders to eat to replenish the needed vitamins and minerals in their bodies. A crew had to be dispatched to raid all the local grocery stores, looking for yellow bananas, so that the crisis could be averted. Thankfully, with the help of **Scott VE3RPN**, aka Green Banana Mobile, it was.

Here is a brief summary of the event by the coordinator **Larry VA3FHG**.

*On Sunday, August 18 twelve members of the NSARC met at Sinclair High School in Whitby to support the 11th edition of the charity ride. Helping out were:*

Net Control – **Ken VE3RMK**, **Laird VE3LKS** and SWL Jeannette  
 Ashburn Park – **Steve VA3TPS**  
 Port Perry Legion – **Joe VE3VGJ**  
 Annina's Bakery – **Martha VA3SBD**  
 Udora – **Doug VA3DCE**  
 Food Mobile – **Scott VE3RPN** and United Way employee  
 Bicycles Plus Vehicle – **Pete VE3PWJ**  
 Impala Cycle Vehicle – **Clint VA3KDK**  
 Mobile 1 – **Larry VA3FHG** and SWL Brad  
 Mobile 2 – **Thomas VE3PDK** and car owner Doug Barlow  
 Mobile 3 – **Cam VE3IGX** and United Way employee

*We were able to transport at least 4 riders and their bikes back to race headquarters. The club opened the net at 07:30 and closed down at 14:50.*

*Thanks for your public service support to the event.*

## Ralph Day VE3CRK – SK

Sadly, we have lost another long-time member of the North Shore ARC this summer. **Ralph's** calm demeanor, knowledgeable insights, technical expertise, and thoughtful analysis will be greatly missed. **Ralph** had a deep passion for Amateur Radio right up to his last breath.

Over the years **Ralph** held many positions in the North Shore including that of the president. It was almost always a given that he would be at club events lending a helping hand, participating, and giving support wherever needed.

**Ralph** was a great mentor to many of us when we received our licence, gently guiding us through the new world of Amateur Radio, teaching us proper communication techniques, explaining complicated radio theory, showing us easy solutions to what seemed like impossible problems, and just being a good friend.

His family will miss him greatly and I know a lot of us Amateurs will miss him too.

73, OM, 73.



## Dave Logan VA3RLP – SK

Early this summer we received the sad news that "**California Dave**" had passed away. **Dave** got his nickname as he owned property in California and regularly travelled back and forth between there and Oshawa. **Dave** was an active Amateur, on both sides of the border, and would often regale us with information as to what was happening in Southern California on the Amateur bands. **Dave** also had the US callsign **KA6RLP**.

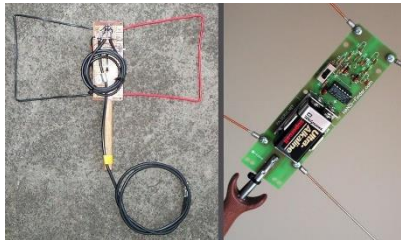
Not only did **Dave** have a passion for radio but he had a genuine interest in people. He was always inquiring as to what you were up to and always had encouraging things to say. I think the world could be falling apart all around him and he would find something in the rubble to make it all good. He was a breath of fresh air.

73, OM, 73.





## Fox Hunt anyone?



One of **Ralph's** daughters, during his eulogy, mentioned that she used to enjoy spending time with her dad on fox hunts. We have not had a fox hunt in a couple decades and was thinking that maybe it is something that the members, and other local Amateurs, might enjoy doing again. I was checking online

and it looks like you can get a decent kit for around \$50 to \$60. Now, this is not the fancy setup that **Ralph VE3CRK** had but a basic handheld unit that requires you to supply the energy to turn it. It could still be a lot of fun so if there is enough interest maybe we can look into it.

## Rag Chews

There have been some interesting rag chews this summer on Tuesday evenings. On one recent evening **Thomas V33PDK** was out being chauffeured around by his son who was prepping for his drivers road test. So, we all started to share info as to what year we got our drivers licence, what make, model and year of vehicle we did it with, and if there were any interesting incidents. Well, I think everyone had a wonderful time listening to all the stories and some good-hearted kidding took place. **Jeffrey VA3RTV** had to do his twice! Well, once when he lived in England and drove on the wrong side of the road and then again when he moved to Canada and drove on the right side! **Jeffrey** also mentioned that his dad did not have to take a driver's test in England. Apparently, if you could fly a bomber during WWII, you were automatically granted a drivers licence. By the way, **Thomas's** son is also studying to get his Amateur licence.

## Pics, pics and more pics!

Just in case you are not aware pictures of most club events can be found on the club website. Simply browse over to [www.ve3osh.com](http://www.ve3osh.com), hover your mouse over the **Photos** tab and you will get a drop down of the various categories. For giggles, let's say you want to check out Field Day pics. Click on **Field Day** from that drop down and you will now be on a page that currently has four pics of Field Days. Once again, hover your mouse over each of those pics and it will tell you what year it was for. Click on the year that you want to look at and it will take you to a page showing all the thumbnails of the pics for that year. If you click on one of the many thumbnails it will put you into a viewer mode and you can enjoy all those pics in stunning digital glory. You can then simply click the arrows on that page to go to the next or previous picture. This setup holds true for all the pics in all the categories. Not all the pics have been labelled with names and call signs yet but we are working on it.

## Tuesday Night Rag Chew



This is not a formal net but rather a lively roundtable. Some can only stick around for a few minutes while others are there from start to finish. We never know what the topic de jour will be but someone always comes up with something. So, if you are available between 1900 and 2000hr on Tuesdays pop onto OSH and join the

conversation. As well, since this is a rag chew, and not a net, feel free to step in and moderate the group should one of the regulars not be there. All you have to do is jot down who is on and rotate through the list so that everyone gets a chance to participate.

## Wednesday Night

### Face-to-Face

As well as the Tuesday night rag chew on the repeater there is quite a crew that meet at the Tim Horton's at King and Wilson at about

7:30pm every Wednesday. This is a great time to get together to chat about radio or anything else that is on your mind. If you are in the area on Wednesday night, and have a few minutes to spare, we would definitely enjoy your company. This is open to anyone whether you are a member of the North Shore ARC or not.



Website – [ve3osh.com](http://ve3osh.com)

## Saturday Breakfast

If you are not tired of chatting or meeting up with club members during the week then you will be interested to know that there is a small group that meets on Saturday morning for breakfast at Johnny's Original Eatery. The restaurant is located in the plaza on the northwest corner of King and Thornton. Members and families usually start to arrive at about 8:30am.



As well, if there is work to be done at the repeater site on a Saturday morning, you will quite often find a large crowd at White Feather Farm, which opens at 8:30am, enjoying coffee, breakfast and maybe even one of their amazing, freshly baked, apple fritters. Just give a shout on the repeater between 8:00 and 8:20 to see if anyone is heading up that way and come and join us if we are. White Feather Farm is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan.

Usually **Joe VE3VGJ** has a fresh-from-the-oven apple fritter with his tea at White Feather and will have a grin from ear to ear. Recently, **Joe** was away so **Cam VE3IGX** stepped up, took one for the team, and filled in for **Joe**. **Cam**, you did a fantastic job filling that gap that weekend and that grin says it all!

## Help Wanted - Program Coordinator

It sure would be nice if someone would be willing to take on the responsibility of organizing the guest speakers for the monthly meetings. In the past this has been a regular position within the club and I think it would be a good idea to make it a regular position again. So, if this is something that you think you would like to do for the North Shore please get in contact with one of the executive. Thank you!

## QRM from the Shack



Well, we are about to kick off the fall session of the North Shore ARC! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual **Sermon on the Mount Corn Roast and BBQ on Tuesday, Sep 17** starting at around 5:30. This fun event is held at the repeater site located at Purple Woods Conservation Area just north of Raglan on Simcoe St. Members are requested to bring a small contribution, such as veggies or cookies or chips, etc to help. If a few people would be willing to bring a cooler with some water or pop please contact me and let me know what you would like to bring so we do not double up on too much. Invite a local Amateur or radio enthusiast to join us. As they will be our guest they will just need to bring a lawn chair.

It is always great when we can announce new members to the North Shore ARC and this is one of those great times. Over the summer **Patricia VE3PXM** and **Michael VE3MXP** of Oshawa decided to take a chance on us and joined our club. Unfortunately, I have not met them yet so cannot give you even a brief bio but hopefully they will join us at the corn roast and we can get acquainted. Welcome aboard **Patricia** and **Michael!**

Our Field Day went off really well this year except for a few little glitches. We had been hoping to run our site generator for the entire event but our UPS devices decided that they were not going to play nicely. Apparently they did not like to run on the power that was supplied by the generator and so remained in the mode where they power the equipment off their internal batteries. I received a frantic call from the internet provider about thirty minutes in as, apparently, their UPS

Email – [info@ve3osh.com](mailto:info@ve3osh.com)

was having the same issue and the battery finally died and shut down. We quickly restored our systems back to grid power, the UPSs started charging their batteries again, and we finished the Field Day event with all the other portable generators that we had brought along for just a situation like this. Since Field Day all the UPS devices have been switched to new devices that have a better tolerance for generator supplied power. The internet provider has also replaced their UPS with the same model that we purchased. A test has been done and they are all working as they should be.

We had only been back up and running a few hours when we had another, more serious, incident. One of Durham's finest pulled into the parking lot, exited his cruiser, and informed us that he had been contacted by CLOCA to have us removed from that site stating that we did not have a permit for that weekend. Now, this was my allergy season so I had gone home by this time in an attempt to regain my ability to breathe. I received a frantic call from **Martha VA3SBD** with the bad news and questioned me about the permit. I told her to sit tight and I would email her a copy to show the officer. While I was tracking down the permit the officer let her, and me, off the hook and informed us that he was also an Amateur, knew that we were at this location for Field Day, and decided to prank us. I am not printing his name, for obvious privacy reasons, but let's just say he better watch his step if he shows up for the corn roast. A citizen's arrest may be in order!

Our normal Wednesday night location for coffee is starting to get a bit dicey in that we cannot always get the long table across the back. It seems that other groups have the same idea that we do. We may have to look at an alternative location and I know that the Coffee Time at Hwy 2 and Courtice Rd has been mentioned a few times. Should we decide to give that location a try I will send out an email blast to everyone, a day or two in advance, so you will know of the change.



I got a bit industrious this summer and made a shelving unit for my HF radios, tuner, SWR meter and other various pieces of equipment. This was all spread out on the desktop and was limiting my working area which is small enough as it is. This new setup puts everything in one nice stack and frees up some space for work. Now, if you want to build something like this and do not have the needed saws do not worry. The big box building stores will make several cuts for you. I was able to get all of my cuts made in-store and did not have to do anything at home. I did decide to make some minor changes and a friend let me use his compound saw to make the adjustments. As long as you have everything pre-planned you will be fine getting your needed cuts done at the store. Send me pics of any projects

that you have done lately, with a brief write up, and I will post them in upcoming Updates.

Well, sorry for the long Update but a lot has been happening this summer. Again, I am looking forward to seeing you out at the Sermon on the Mount this coming week

**73 de Laird VE3LKS**

