



# Monthly Update

October 2019

## October Club Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, Oct 15, 7:00pm  
**Where:** White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence

This month Mary La Chapelle, of the Emergency Management department of Durham Region, will be presenting on the measures that the region has in place should an event arise that limits communications.

## September Meeting – Sermon on the Mount Corn Roast and BBQ



We sure do get lucky with the weather when we have our meetings at the repeater site and our recent Sermon on the Mount corn roast and BBQ was no exception. It was a phenomenally nice evening and if it was not for the fact that the sun has started to set a bit earlier I am sure there would have been a crowd there much later into the evening. A huge “THANK YOU” to all those who helped with organizing the evening – **Martha VA3SBD** for arranging the groceries and supplies, **Doug VA3DCE** and **Joe VE3VGJ** for taking care of cooking the corn and grilling the meats, **Carl SWL** for procuring the corn from Price’s in Bowmanville, and to all those of you that brought items for the table to compliment the main course. Of course I would be remiss if I did not mention Dianne’s famous Devilled Eggs (we allow **Peter VE3PWJ** to be a member just because of his XYL! ☺) but we also have a new fan favorite that made a premiere at this event. **Farney VE3BHQ’s** XYL made some Peanut Butter Squares that tantalized the taste buds. With a cook like that at home it is a wonder that **Farney** is not as wide as he is tall! There were some really good salads on the table as well. I love coleslaw and I think I ate half of one of the homemade options that someone brought and quite a bit of one of the broccoli salads. Maybe we need to consider adding a recipe corner to our monthly Update! Judging by the before and after looks of the dishes that the food was brought in it was all pleasing to the palette and enjoyed by all.

## Repeater News

Well, fall is here and that means we get to kick off the fall session of making trips up to the repeater shack to work on projects. This will immediately be followed by the winter, spring and summer sessions as well! Of course, the obligatory stop at White Feather is what makes it an easy draw for most of the team. ☺

Some work has already been done and so far it has mainly been enhancements and not repairs.

**Fusion** – yes, we have had two Fusion repeaters for several years but neither have been put into service as an actual Fusion mode repeater. Since more of our members are getting radios that are capable of Fusion, Yaesu’s version of digital communications, we have decided to take the VE3NAA 440 repeater and repurpose it to run Fusion. VE3NAA was not being used very much for analog communications so we decided, at the prompting of some members, to turn the Fusion option on.

So, **Lex VE3LEX** and the team went to work and now we have a repeater that will work with Fusion radios. What does that mean for you? Well, in a nutshell, this is how it has been configured to operate. If an operator with a Fusion radio activates NAA, using the digital mode on their radio, and starts a QSO with another Fusion radio the repeater will automatically sense the mode and transmissions will be

purely digital. If you have a Fusion capable radio you will be able to listen and join in on the QSO. If you have an analog radio you will just hear hash. Likewise, if an operator with an analog radio starts a QSO on NAA the repeater will sense the mode so both in and out traffic will be analog. Anyone with analog will be able to converse with them. You can’t have both a Fusion and analog QSO going on at the same time. There are several ways that a Fusion repeater can be set up to operate but this is the mode that was decided upon to test.

At the moment it is not connected to the internet so Wires X is not available so any Fusion digital transmissions are strictly local. It will probably be connected to the internet at some point but an interface will need to be installed and configured. The newer Fusion repeaters have that interface built in but ours does not.

**Electrical** – **Bob VE3HIX** installed an electrical outlet on the generator output so when the generator is running, ie for Field Day next summer, we can run extension cords right into the generator shack and not have to keep the repeater shack open to run the cords in there. This also means that we can keep the repeater shack on grid power but still run generator power. Great idea **Bob!**



## JOTA

The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Jamboree On The Air event is coming up on the weekend of October 18-20. This event gets Scouts and Guides, from all around the world, contacting each other via Amateur Radio. There are a few North Shore Amateurs that team up with the Peterborough club to help make this event possible for the local troops. **Martha VA3SBD**, **Clint VA3KDK** and Scouter **Thomas VE3PDK** will be out helping with the event but if you are interested in lending a hand I am sure they could use you. If you would like to volunteer, or need further info, please contact **Martha** via email - [va3sbd@gmail.com](mailto:va3sbd@gmail.com)

## Rag Chews

Now that the days are getting shorter and the evenings have that fall chill in the air you have no excuse not to get on the weekly Rag Chew on Tuesday evening at 7pm. Well, **Jimmy “the antennales” VE3SOI** has an excuse but most of you don’t. ☺ Over the summer participation came and went in waves as people were taking advantage of the warm weather and spent a lot more time outdoors or away on vacations. Regardless, we did have some interesting conversations. Make sure you join us on Tuesday evenings even if it is to just pop in and say “Hi”.

## 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.

## Annual Membership Drive

Yes, it is that time of the year that makes our membership chair **Clint VA3KDK** work a bit harder and puts a smile on the face of our treasurer **Bob VE3HIX**. You will find attached to the email that you received this Update with a copy of the membership form for the 2020 year. Please fill it in, bring your cash, and drop it off with **Clint** at any of the upcoming meetings. We like to have this wrapped up before the December meeting so **Clint** can enjoy the Christmas Potluck with the rest of us so please endeavor to do this at either the October or November meetings.



## 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.



## 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.

## 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 officially into the fall session of the North Shore ARC! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting where we can start planning for what we would like to do this coming year.

Earlier in this Update it was mentioned that VE3NAA had been repurposed as a true Fusion repeater with the ability to use both analog and digital modes. So, for those who have Fusion radios I would request that you give it a good work out and see how it is going. Not trying to push any products here but the local radio store does have a pretty good deal on Fusion radios at the moment, ending sometime in October, that is dual band, analog and digital, and has APRS built in. I had been looking to replace the dual radio that I have in my mobile as it, or my APRS tracker, have been having some issues as of late. I was going to go with a new dual radio with APRS built in but when I saw that one was available with the same specs, plus the added benefit of Fusion for less \$\$\$, I decided to check it out. Long story short, I found the same radio, nearly new, on the KW Swap Shop for a great price and am now the proud owner of a Yaesu FTM-400XDR. Special TNX to **Cam VE3IGX** and **Daren VE3NMD** who have been able to answer a lot of probably stupid sounding questions that I had.



I found a great t-shirt on Amazon US that I could not resist passing up. My son was heading down to Tennessee to visit relatives so I had it shipped there and had him bring it home. He is not interested in radio but I always reassure him that someday he will be as smart and **Joe VE3VGJ**, **Doug VA3DCE** and myself and will be able to get his ticket! He had no idea what I had ordered but I asked him to open and inspect the package in case anything was wrong. After seeing the shirt he threatened not to bring it home. ☺ Sorry about the model – he has a face made for radio – but the shirt is pretty funny.



It is time to start putting the bug in everyone's ear about Hamfest 2020. We will start with the planning meetings the first Sunday in January, the 5<sup>th</sup>. That should give you a few days to recuperate from your New Year partying and have somewhat of a clear mind. We will meet at the usual location in Whitby at the service centre located at the 401 and Brock St. at 12:00 noon. Our planning meetings are open to anyone in the club so feel free to join us and see where you can help out.

So, what kind of trouble have you been getting into with Amateur Radio this summer? I have several projects on the go at the moment but an HF vertical is the one of most interest. I ordered a 20ft telescopic fishing pole this summer and now that the weather is getting lousy I guess I can wrap some wire around it, attach a balun and some coax, and take a crack at making a vertical HF antenna for the backyard to compliment the G5RV. Or, I may just pour another hot drink and work some more FT8. We will have to see how it goes. Anyway, let us know what you have cooking, include some pics, and I will put it in the next edition of the Update.

The North Shore ARC is open to anyone who would like to join us for meetings and get-togethers. Please feel free to invite those, who are not members, to come and join us! We will try to be on our best behavior. Key word is "try". ☺

73 de Laird VE3LKS