



# Monthly Update

## January 2020

### January Club Meeting - Invisible Antennas

**When:** Tuesday, Dec 17, 7:00pm  
**Where:** White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence

This month **Bob VE3HIX** will be presenting on invisible antennas. In today's world where you are not always able to put up a regular antenna, due to local homeowner association regulations and the likes, you can still get an antenna up and make contacts on the radio.

### December Club Meeting

#### Christmas Party!

Unless your name is Mr. Grinch or Ebenezer Scrooge then you were probably at our Christmas Potluck and do not need any further info. If you were not able to make it out, well, you missed a great time. The food was not only delicious but also plentiful and the socializing was fantastic. Someone even suggested that we should consider doing potlucks on a monthly basis! Hmmm, the North Shore Amateur Radio and Potluck Club. We will have to revamp our logo and order some new letterhead. © A tip of the toque to **Martha VA3SBD**, who did all the planning, and to all the wonderful chefs who brought the culinary delights. The only thing left to do is to hide the bathroom scales for a month or two.



### Family Day Amateur Radio Display

A few years ago we had a display that the Simcoe St. United Church as part of the Family Day activities. They are opening up their hall again this year and so if anyone would like to organize a display please let me know at the meeting. The Family Day event is on Monday, Feb 17 from 10am to 5pm



**Martha VA3SBD** will be stepping down as Vice President due to other commitments. So, we are looking for someone to step up and assume this role. NOTE – this is mainly an administrative position to

help the executive. Martha has indicated that she will be carrying on with the social events that she organizes. Please let **Laird VE3LKS** know if you are interested in stepping up or know someone who is interested.

### Annual Membership Drive

Our January meeting will be the last regular opportunity to pay your dues for 2020. After that we send the bone breakers around. Trust me, you don't want to mess with **Farney VE3BHQ** when he shows up at your door. Well, ok, not exactly bone breakers but maybe some polite reminders. Your dues help us to do things like maintain the repeater, provide food at club events, pay our room rent, make sure we are covered with insurance, etc. These are just a few of the behind the scene expenses that most probably never hear about. So, let's make **Clint VA3KDKs** life a living hell at our next meeting and overwhelm him with a stack of membership forms and dues. If you are not a member of the North Shore ARC, but enjoy hanging around with us, we would encourage you to consider becoming a member as well. This will also make **Bob (Cratchit) VE3HIX**, our treasurer, a happy camper too. If paying by cheque it MUST be made payable to **North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc.** Any other version of our name may not be accepted by the bank. Thank you for your consideration.



### 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 interesting. 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.



## QRM from the Shack

A New Year has been ushered in and I will spare you all the bad jokes that have sprung up with regards to it. No, I will leave that up to John SWL to present the bad lines like "you will never see things so clearly as you will in 2020."

Unfortunately, knowing John, he has a lot more stuffed inside his humour quiver.

We have had some recent additions to the North Shore ARC in the last month or two.

**Vic VA3VZ** has been out to a few meetings and it was nice getting to chat with him, his wife **Wanda** and daughter **Tina** at the Christmas party. **Vic** has some questions about a vertical antenna that he has so maybe we can get him to explain a bit more at our next meeting and hopefully someone will have some suggestions. A few weeks ago, at our weekly Tim's

meetup, **John Smith VE3KZT** came in with an application form in hand as he had decided to join us as well. **John** has had quite the career operating heavy lift cranes and training crane operators. He tried to tell me that he is an octogenarian the other night but I think I will need to see his birth certificate for evidence as he comes across as being much younger. He moved from Cobourg and was looking for a local club and we are excited that he chose to come and be part of the North Shore.

Earlier this month I had the privilege of doing a presentation on RF and linking to the internet for the Durham PC Users Club. They must have been really hard up for a presenter. So, I revamped the AllStar presentation, which I had done for North Shore last year, and toddled off to their meeting. I was a bit worried about being able to fill the hour allotment that they had given me but at one hour in I was only 2/3s of the way through. There were lots of very good questions from the attendees and, since there was only some minor business that they had to do after the break, they encouraged me to continue on. In fact, when I asked how much more time I could have one interested party indicated that I could easily go another three hours. This is a bit of a switch from the North Shore crowd that would have probably been happy if I had stopped 30 minutes sooner! ☺ Part of the presentation involved a hands on demonstration where I connected to VE3OSH and chatted with **Bob VE3HIX** for a few minutes. After that brief QSO I connected to the WIN System, waited politely to make sure it was not in use, and then put out a general call mentioning that I was doing a presentation on RF and VOIP in



The two presidents - **Fred Fernbach** of the Durham PC Users Club and **Laird VE3LKS** of the North Shore ARC

telling us their location. We had stations everywhere from Alaska to Australia, and everywhere in between, coming back with reports. When it subsided I gave a call out to the VK6 station in Australia and had a short QSO regarding the wildfires and if they were affecting his QTH. The attendees were quite impressed and some even showed interest in learning more about our hobby and what they would need to do to get their licence. So, at upcoming meetings, or Wednesday night Tim's sessions, don't be surprised if a new face or two shows up. Overall, since they did not try to throw me out the door, with the door still closed, I think it was a pretty successful evening. It was great to have **Bob VE3IRB** there for support and he

Amateur Radio for the local computer club and I swear the quiet node exploded into a pileup. I would guess that for the next four to five minutes we heard nothing but stations coming in, identifying themselves, and

offered up the use of his phone for the demo when the HDMI port would not relinquish the sound back to the laptop speakers during the live demonstration. Nice, also, to see **Glen VE3LIZ**. We all had a pleasant chat at the break but were sad that **Farney VE3BHQ** was not able to make it out. The computer clubs meeting next month is a must see. **Bob VE3IRB** will be speaking on how to post pictures of your own home made culinary delights to Facebook. Trust me, you will not want to miss that one! Or should that be "you will want to miss..."

**Bob VE3HIX**'s presentation on invisible antennas this month should be quite interesting. This is NOT to be confused with the invisible antenna system that **Jimmy VE3SOI** has deployed equipped with invisible coax feeding through invisible holes in his house into his Kenwood 990 radio and the invisible software that he logs his invisible contacts with to get the invisible QSL cards in the mail! No, we will have **Jimmy** do a presentation on that at a later meeting.

On Sunday, January 5, we had our kickoff planning meeting for our 2020 Hamfest. **Alison VE3GRL** is our Hamfest Chair and appears to have things falling into place. We welcome **Ken VE3RMK** to the lead position of Vendor Table Sales this year and **Thomas VE3PDK** is stepping into the lead role of Vendor Logistics for the day of the event. We wish to thank **Steve VA3TPS** and **Larry VA3FHG** who held these positions in the past and who will continue supporting the new leaders of these roles. We would like to thank both **Ken** and **Thomas** for being willing to take on these responsibilities and for **Steve** and **Larry** to be there as mentors.

I think it is safe to say that the weekly Saturday morning trips to White Feather Farm are no longer limited to just days when there is something to be done at the repeater. So, even if you do not hear anyone on the repeater, as happened a couple weeks ago when the controller was hung, you can be assured that there will usually be a few people there enjoying a coffee and maybe a fritter or breakfast. Of course you can always give a shout on the repeater to verify.

As I wrap up this month's Update and get it ready to email it appears that we are finally getting a good blast of winter. It is supposed to snow and blow until about 1900hrs today and I can't wait until it stops so I can pull on the winter storm gear, get the Poulan Pro out of the garage and enjoy some quality time with my snow blower. Yes, this may sound crazy to some, but I thoroughly enjoy breaking out the motorized equipment and having some fun blowing out my place as well as maybe a few of the neighbors. Afterwards, a steaming mug of hot chocolate and a few hours of DXing will be on the agenda to end a perfect day.

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you all out at the monthly meeting on Tuesday evening. Come prepared to enjoy another interesting presentation by **Bob VE3HIX** and to enjoy some good time with your fellow Amateurs.

**73 de Laird VE3LKS**

