



Monthly Update

February 2020

February Club Meeting – Show n Tell

When: Tuesday, Feb 18, 7:00pm
Where: White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence

NOTE – due to renovations our meeting is in the Chapel this month. The Chapel is just a couple more doors down the hallway on the left side. Since this is where **Fanny's VE3BHQ** church meets maybe he will have a sermon for us and our treasurer **Bob VE3HIX** can take up an offering.

Bob VE3HIX will be giving a "show and tell" presentation on the following topics:
- The February Straight Key Century Club weekend sprint. This sprint had a boat anchor theme, so he used the Collins rig with a **Laird's VE3LKS** Kent key.
- A dedicated log keeping program from the SKCC, free for everyone and usable for all modes.
- Labels on HTs and microphones for quick DTMF access.

Joe VE3VGJ is going to bring some vintage hardware from a teletype setup.

Do you have anything that you would like to do a short presentation on? If so, bring it along and we will fit you in! There should be lots of time available even after **Jimmy VE3SOI** shows us the QSL cards he has received for all the HF contacts he has made.

January Club Meeting

Bob VE3HIX gave a very interesting presentation on invisible antennas. It was based around a report that he had seen from a club in Florida that, I believe, is 200 members strong. However, they all live in a retirement community and there are strict HOA regulations about antennas. It was interesting to see what these Amateurs were doing so that they could still enjoy their hobby but not fall prey to the local association or nosey neighbors.

New Name Badges

Well, we finally have the design nailed down and are taking orders for the new name badges. Anyone who is a new member in the last couple years, since the last time we had them made up, is eligible for a free badge. If others would like one the cost is \$10. What we need from you is the call sign and name that you would like on the badge. Badges will only be in blue and will have magnetic attachment. We will have a sample at the meeting for you to look at. The badge is 10cm wide and 5cm high. If you are a new member but have not received your badge please tell us so we don't miss you.



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. **Robert VE3IRB** will have a small display there but it would be great if others would step up and give him a hand. The Family Day event is on Monday, Feb 17 from 10am to 5pm



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.

Well, it used to be that we only went to **White Feather Farm** if there was work to be done at the repeater site on a Saturday morning. However, that has morphed into a permanent event and you will find a gathering there whether there is work to be done



or not. So, pop up to **White Feather Farm**, which opens at 8:30am, enjoy a hot beverage, 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.



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.

Guest Articles with Pictures Go Here

This area here is going to be reserved for guest articles from club members. No, I don't mean web links that you send to other peoples articles, I mean articles that YOU contribute. We have over 40 members in our club so if each member contributed only ONE article every TWO years there would be two additional articles in each Update. I realize that a lot of people join a club to be entertained. However, those who do the entertaining grow weary of it over time and pretty soon no one is doing anything and the club disappears. If you don't believe me then take a look around the area. There are not too many clubs, Amateur Radio or otherwies, that are surviving and apathy and burnout plays a large part in that. Don't let this happen to YOUR club.

Articles do not have to be long and drawn out. In fact, a picture or two with a few paragraphs of wording is usually more than enough. So, fire off some pics from your phone and a few lines of explanation and have your masterpieces published here in the Update. Will you win a Pulitzer? Probably not but you will make YOUR club a more interesting place to belong.

QRM from the Shack

To be honest, I don't have a lot to report on this month but here goes.

Repeater - a few weeks ago, when we had a deep freeze, the generator fired right up without hesitation during its regular automated weekly test. As you probably recall last winter the starter motor fried partly due to overheating while trying to get the generator to start. A new starter was installed and a small electric heater, that comes on when the temp drops to frigid conditions, solved that issue. Now, when the temperature dips, it fires up as if it was a warm summer day. The only additional mod, that the fellows are going to install, is going to be a small light inside the repeater building that will light up when the generator is running. You can't hear the generator running from inside the repeater building so this will be a nice visual indicator.



Sometimes the repeater controller gets hung and no one can use the 2m repeater. Well, a new remote power switch has been installed at the repeater so now several of the repeater team can use an app on their phone and recycle the power for the OSH repeater, and get it on the air again. This will save trips to the site just to recycle the power.

As most of you know I am a huge fan of the TV show "Last Man Standing" starring comedian Tim Allen. On the set of the show there is an Amateur radio in Mike Baxter's (Tim Allen's character) office at Outdoor Man and one in his basement office at home. These stations actually function and Tim Allen, and several other crew members, are licensed Amateurs. Every few weeks a local club comes in, activates the station, and makes contacts around the world. About a month ago I was fortunate to make contact when they were operating on AllStar and this past month I worked them on FT8 fox and hound mode. I can't wait to get the QSL cards from KA6LMS! 2,226 miles with 20w and a G5RV that is only 24' at the apex. Not bad.

WSJT-X v2.1.2 by K1JT

Band Activity				Rx Frequency					
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message	UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
234530	-9	0.2	307	~ KN4FIS KA6LMS -19	234530	-7	0.1	427	~ CQ KA6LMS DM04
234530	-8	0.2	367	~ KD0XD KA6LMS -22	234547	Tx		1101	~ KA6LMS VE3LKS FN03
234530	-7	0.1	427	~ CQ KA6LMS DM04 U.S.A.	234615	Tx		1101	~ KA6LMS VE3LKS FN03
234600	-4	0.2	307	~ KN4FIS KA6LMS -19	234630	-6	0.2	367	~ VE3LKS KA6LMS -13
234600	-2	0.2	367	~ KD0XD KA6LMS -22	234645	Tx		367	~ KA6LMS VE3LKS R-06
234630	-7	0.2	307	~ KD0XD KA6LMS -22	234700	1	0.2	307	~ VE3LKS KA6LMS RR73
234630	-6	0.2	367	~ VE3LKS KA6LMS -13	234730	-6	0.2	427	~ W0WTM KA6LMS -08
234700	1	0.2	307	~ VE3LKS KA6LMS RR73					
234730	-6	0.2	427	~ W0WTM KA6LMS -08					
234730	-8	0.2	307	~ VE3RYI KA6LMS -07					
234730	-6	0.2	367	~ W4EJG KA6LMS -08					

Log QSO Stop Monitor Erase Decode Enable Tx Halt Tx Tune

20m 14.091 000 Tx 367 Hz

DX Call: KA6LMS DX Grid: DM04 Rx 307 Hz

Az: 267 2226 mi Report 1

2020 Feb 11 23:48:12

Calling CQ: CQ Answering CQ: Grid

dB: dB R+dB: R+dB

RRR: 73

KA6LMS VE3LKS 73 Gen msg

Free msg

Receiving FT8 Last Tx: KA6LMS VE3LKS R-06 12/15 WD:5m

Tall **Larry VE3LWJ** has been tearing up the HF bands this past month too. He finally got up the nerve to transmit and has not looked back. His wife, **Joan**, is appreciating all the quiet time that she now has for herself! Congrats, **Larry**, on getting on the air and holding down the PTT.

Anyway, that is it for now. Looking forward to seeing you all out at the meeting Tuesday evening.

73 de Laird VE3LKS