

# Monthly Update

April 2020

## April Club Meeting – COVID-19 Busters

**When:** Sunday, April 26, 7:00pm  
**Where:** your place

We will be utilizing Zoom videoconferencing to conduct our meeting this month. **Laird VE3LKS** will be hosting the meeting and club members should have received a meeting invite already to a test session on Sunday, April 19 at 7pm to make sure your setup is working. **Laird** will send out a meeting invite for the April 26 meeting later this week.

We are not sure what the topic(s) will be yet but if you have anything that you would like to share with the group please let **Laird** know. The nice thing about Zoom is that anyone can share your computer desktop with the entire group if you want and they will see whatever you see on your computer.

## New Name Badges

Well, we have been able to distribute a few of the new name badges but with this COVID outbreak it is going slow. Rest assured that if you ordered one or requested one as a new member, that we have it and will get it to you...someday...somehow. ☺



## Hamfest Update

Sadly the 2020 Durham Hamfest has been cancelled. Not due to any lack of enthusiasm or participation from the organizing committee, clubs or vendors but because of this @#\$(#@ virus that has the country and world in lockdown. The good news is that **Glenn VA3GAR** has already secured the venue for 2021 and we may discuss the possibility of a scaled down event when the restrictions are lifted.



## Repeater Update

I received a call from **Aldo VA3AG** with regards to a proposal to link our repeater, VE3NAA, to VE3PIC, VE3YRC, and VE3UNR. I have been in touch with **Lex VE3LEX**, **Laird VE3LKS** and **Bob VE3HIX**, and everyone feels that it is in our best interest to pursue this. **Aldo** is willing to donate a computer. **Chris VE3BNI** has offered to help set this up. I have the Wires-X HRI-200 box. We all feel that VE3NAA will then get some use, in both the "analog" and the "Fusion, C4FM modes."

Thanks. **Jeffrey VA3RTV**

Website – ve3osh.com



## Tuesday Night Rag Chew

### COVID-19 Rag Chew

Well, the Coronavirus may be keeping us locked away from each other but it is not stopping us from having some fun. A few weeks ago we took the Tuesday evening

Rag Chew and converted it to the COVID-19 Rag Chew. We also expanded it so instead of just being on Tuesday evenings it is now on weekday evenings, Monday through Friday, at 7pm. It is hard to believe that we have been locked down so long but we just completed Week 5 of this new event. We started it with the purpose of giving everyone another social outlet and for those who may need assistance with anything to be able to make contact with somebody who could help. As of the latest data compilation, after the Friday, April 17 Rag Chew, we have been averaging 21 check-ins each evening and 55 different Amateurs have been involved. When we first started we were able to get three rounds of conversation in and be done by 8pm but since Week 2 we have only been able to get two rounds in and we end sometime around 8:30pm. Let me tell you, it sounds like a long time but it goes by quickly.

## Social Distancing



Maintaining a safe distance while distributing a few name badges? Yup, more than the required 2m apart! **Laird VE3LKS** was trying his hardest not catch the "Grumpy" virus from **Doug VA3DCE** and getting ready to run in case **Daren VE3NMD** got much closer.



Email – info@ve3osh.com

## Wednesday Night Face-to-Face

As well as the Tuesday night rag chew on the repeater there is quite a busy schedule 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 else that is on your mind. If you are 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.

**Postponed**  
until further notice



## Saturday Breakfast

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

Well, it is a shame 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 of people whether there is work to be done or not. So, pop up to **White Feather Farm**, which opens at 8:20am, enjoy a hot beverage, breakfast and maybe even some of the 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 Centre St and Raglan Rd in Raglan.



**Postponed**  
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## COVID-19 Rag Chew – More Stats

As mentioned earlier, our weekly Tuesday night Rag Chew has been transformed into a weeknight event, Monday through Friday, at 7pm on VE3OSH. Below are some interesting tid bits about the Rag Chew.

- Event has run for 22 evenings as of today
- 55 different Amateurs have checked in
- Average evening sees 21 check ins
- Mini pileups ensue at the beginning
- Some operators have checked in every evening
- We could not use VE3NAA as that is 70cm and social distancing guidelines demand at least 2m so we use VE3OSH
- We started to livestream on Youtube for giggles
- **Grant VA3KJ** is the most unintentionally skipped check-in by the controller
- **Joe VE3VGJ** is the most intentionally skipped check-in by the controller
- **Scott VE3RPN** is the most picked on check-in by the controller
- **WE NEED A NEW CONTROLLER!!!**
- **Rylan**, son of **Mark VE3DKW**, is one of the youngest check-ins
- **Alex**, son of **John VA3OFR**, is one of the youngest check-in too
- Picked up several casual observers on Youtube
- Try to pick a topic each evening to chat about
- Topics are not always radio related



If you have not been checking in **WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM???**



**Laird VE3LKS** on the VE3LKS Youtube channel livestreaming a public service announcement about proper usage of the popular N95 masks. You can check it out here → [Youtube video](#)

Website – ve3osh.com

## QRM from the Shack

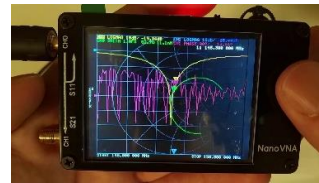
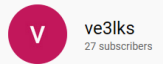
What a crazy month we are having....AGAIN! When will this fun end??

With the world deeply in the grips of this Coronavirus, COVID-19 or whatever politically correct name they come up with, Amateur Radio appears to be surviving and quite handily at that. Yes, some things like our monthly meetings, our weekly coffee nights and early morning breakfasts have had to take a back seat due to restrictions. The Dayton Hamvention has been cancelled but is in good company as even the ever popular, regionally reknowned and acclaimed Durham Hamfest has had to take a sabbatical for a year. But, at the core of the hobby, I don't think it has weekend one iota. No, that is NOT Islands On The Air or the ninth letter of the Greek alphabet that I am referring to but an extremely small measurement or value. In fact, I would argue that this outbreak have been a good boon to the hobby and service that we enjoy so much. You have to look no further than our weekly Rag Chew, that has morphed into a nightly event every Monday through Friday at 7pm on VE3OSH, to see this on full display. Members who are not regular participants to our weekly event are now on most evenings. Non members, some who hardly ever use a repeater, have been checking in regularly. As the days go on the Rag Chew itself is morphing as well. Thanks to a great suggestion by **Joe VE3VGJ** we now try to have a "topic du jour" and participants have been giving good suggestions for upcoming Rag Chews. Topics like "favorite methods and recipes for cooking smelt" to "what got you started in Amateur Radio" have provided great hours of discussions.



Several weeks into the COVID-19 Rag Chew we kicked it up a notch and started livestreaming the event on Youtube. Well, in all honesty, it started out just for fun one night and more of a hoax than anything else.

However, now if I do not have it fired up and running I get hate mail. So, browse over to Youtube.com and in the search bar put in my call VE3LKS and you will catch the livestream and, if you are really bored, can watch past episodes. If you are a registered Youtube user you can participate with comments during the livestream as well. We have been having some technical difficulties with the Youtube stream the last few nights. Sometime between 7:50 and 8:10 the output from Youtube will freeze. I do not see that on my side and my Youtube indicates that my outbound streaming is still working. People will report this in the chat bar and when it happens I close down that stream, start a new one, and we are good to go again. The VE3LKS Youtube channel has 27 subscribers at the moment so appears to be on the verge of going viral! In fact, this is the fastest growing Amateur Radio Youtube channel in the entire Durham Region. © Check it out sometime.



The NanoVNA subgroup of the North Shore ARC is booming as well. **Joe VE3VGJ** got the ball rolling and soon after he demonstrated his to me I ordered one on Amazon too. Since then **Jeffrey VA3RTV**, **Jimmy VE3SOI** (why does Jimmy need an antenna analyzer??), **Daren VE3NMD**, **Grant VA3KJ** and **Cam VE3IGX** have followed suit. It is so easy to use that even I can do it!

It appears that I am running out of space to ramble on here so I had better wrap it up, put the postage on it, and get it out in the email. I truly hope that all of you are doing well during this time of isolation and can't wait to be able to sit around a table and chat once again over a coffee and fritter. Funny how we take so much for granted until it is taken from us.

73 de Laird VE3LKS

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