

# Monthly Update

May 2020

## May Club Meeting – COVID-19 Busters

**When:** Sunday, May 24, 7:00pm  
**Where:** your place

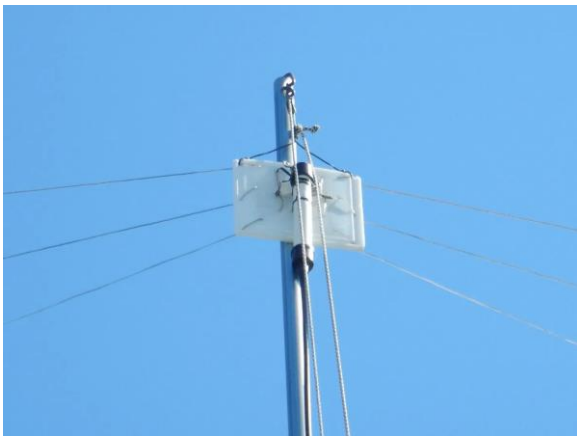
Once again we will be utilizing Zoom videoconferencing to conduct our meeting this month. **Laird VE3LKS** will be hosting the meeting and you will receive an invite to the meeting in the next few days. Now that we have figured out this platform a bit better, and feel comfortable using it, we will be opening up this months' meeting to friends of the North Shore ARC as well. **Joe VE3VGJ** and **Daren VE3NMD** will be showing us how the popular NanoVNA can help you with antenna projects.

## April Meeting

As everyone is probably aware, last month's meeting was held using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Being our first shot at running a Zoom meeting we limited it to club members only as we did not know what to expect and wanted a bit of a controlled environment. If you have never been on a Zoom videoconference it feels like you are on the intro to the Brady Bunch with the added benefit of being able to show your desktop to the entire group. In my humble opinion, this feature is far better than our regular practice of showing presentations using a projector.



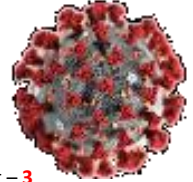
**Laird VE3LKS** gave a presentation on what Field Day may look like this year with all sorts of options for single operator stations. **Joe VE3VGJ** had a nice presentation on a Fan Dipole that he is building/evolving.



## 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 couple months 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. Here are some stats as of the end of the Rag Chew on Friday, May 15.

- Rag Chew nights – 42
- Unique participants – 80
- Number of check ins – 932
- Average per night – 22
- Number who have checked in every night – 3



Special thanks to **Ken VE3RMK** who has been submitting weekly Public Service Activity reports to Radio Amateur of Canada.

We have also picked up some great SWLs along the way. Our VE3OSH repeater streams on Broadcastify over the internet. You can listen to VE3OSH by going to our website, [www.VE3OSH.com](http://www.VE3OSH.com) and clicking the "Listen to VE3OSH" tab in the top right. After a few more clicks you will be listening. As well, we started a Youtube livestream one evening and it has sort of stuck. So, you can go you Youtube, lookup VE3LKS and watch and listen to all the fun and frivolity going on at the Presidential Station. © **Jeff**, one of our regular SWLs operates the virtual North Shore Bar and Grill and serves up specials every evening. I think Roadkill Wednesdays are the most popular but the Friday Fish n Frequency Fries is good too! Another SWL, known as **Gary Z**, is another regular on the Youtube channel and joined us recently when we did a Zoom meeting to discuss radio equipment.

Other not so local "locos" are **Brian VA3BAH** from a few hours down the highway in Kingston, ON and **Mike VA6HEM** from a few days drive across the Trans Canada in Calgary, AB. They have been joining us on our AllStar link on node 27838. So, if you have not been joining in on the chaos that is the nightly COVID-19 Rag Chew I just have one question. What is stopping you???

## New Name Badges

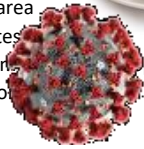
Well, we have been able to distribute a few of the new name badges but with this COVID outbreak it is going slow. Rest assured that if you ordered one or requested one as a new member, that we have it and will get it to you...someday...somehow. 😊



## Wednesday Night Face-to-Face

As well as the Tuesday night rag chew on the repeater there is quite a social meet at the Tim Horton's at King and Wilson at about 7:30pm every Wednesday. It 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. 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 will know that there is a small group that meets on Saturday at **Johnny's Original Eatery**. The restaurant is located at the west corner of King and Thornton. Members and families meet at about 8:30am.

Well, it has morphed into a permanent event and you will find a gathering there whether there is work to do or not. So, pop up to **White Feather Farm**, which opens at 8:30am, enjoy a hot beverage, breakfast and maybe even one 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 you are. **White Feather Farm** is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan.



**Postponed**  
until further notice

## Up for Auction

**Steve VA3TPS** has donated a couple of items to be auctioned off with the proceeds going to the North Shore ARC.

### **Byonics TinyTrak3Plus APRS tracker.**

This unit comes complete with the Byonics GPS2 mag mount GPS and Byonics H5C cable. **Steve** used this on a Yaesu FT-8800 but you can go to the Byonics website and see what radios this cable will work with or order a cable for your specific radio. Opening bid will be **\$40 obro**.



### **VE3DDN built dual band UHF/VHF base J-Pole antenna.**

You can't beat these for overall performance and quality. These sell at hamfests for \$70 to \$80. Many of our members use these for special events as well as for permanent home installations. We already have an opening bid of **\$40**.

If you wish to bid on either of these items please contact **Laird VE3LKS** via email at [VE3LKS@yahoo.ca](mailto:VE3LKS@yahoo.ca). Anyone who bids on an item will be updated by email when bids increment. Bidding will close at 11:59pm on Sunday, May 31.

Thank you, **Steve**, for your kind generosity and for supporting the North Shore ARC!



## QRM from the Shack

I think I am figuring out what it will be like to be retired. Even though I am still putting in a full week of work during this COVID thing it is really odd doing it from the comfort of my home and hamshack/office. I now understand how the names of days become meaningless as quite often I have to check my phone to figure out if it is Tuesday or Thursday. Oh, guys like **Doug VA3DCE** and **Peter VE3PWJ** warned me that it would be like this but I would scoff and laugh at their silly suggestions. If I happen to turn the volume up on the 2m rig in the shack I will often hear a familiar voice saying "VA3RTV monitoring". You can almost set your watch by this as **Jeffrey** makes his way up to Tim's to pick up oatmeal and then over to McDonald's to grab some coffees for him and his darling **Lois**. So, I am slowly getting groomed and broken in to what life may represent in a few years and I must say that it is quite enjoyable.



On our April club meeting videoconference we voted and affirmed our new Vice President, **John Deacon**. **John** is an active member of the community participating in a men's singing group, church activities, a Shriner and a go-getter on the Hamfest Committee where he helps run the snack bar. **John** is one of those people that are hard to say no to because he is so nice but he also hardly ever says no to requests from others. I look forward to working with **John** and getting together with the rest of executive once this COVID nightmare is past.

Although I am glad that **John** stepped up to the challenge I am sad that **Martha VA3SBD** has stepped down. Thank goodness **Martha** will still be around, at this point anyway, to still help lead out with some of the club activities. **Martha** is pursuing a career change that has the possibility of taking her away from the area and if that happens she will be sorely missed by us but we will be happy that her goals and aspirations are working out for her. However, we will still expect fruit cake every Christmas!

So, now that you have been severely restricted, due to COVID regulations, what have you been doing to pass away the hours, days, weeks and months? Have you started any new Amateur Radio projects? Maybe finished off a few outstanding ones? Do let us know. Send us pics. Tell us about it on the COVID-19 Rag Chew. Myself, since I am working from home I have not played much on the radio let alone work on any projects. I will have 2m on during the day and will sometimes enter into a QSO if I need a break but for the most part I have not been transmitting much. After putting in a solid eight hours, or more, I need to get out of the shack. So, I will go for a walk, watch some of my favorite Youtube channels, have a bit of supper, grab a ginger and peach tea and then head back down to the shack for another 1.5 hours on the Rag Chew. By the time the weekend comes I really need a break from the shack. I am going to try to get my end fed put up soon now that the weather appears to be turning for the better.

By now we would have had our annual Durham Hamfest and, as I type, this would have been the weekend of the Hamvention near Dayton. I have not been to the Hamvention in about 30 years and was really looking forward to making the trip down this year. My good friend **John VE6GJM**, who has never been, was going to be coming from Edmonton and we were planning on spending a very long weekend in Ohio. We will have to plan the trip again for another time. Tnx COVID!

Looking forward to seeing you all on the Zoom meeting next Sunday!

**73 de Laird VE3LKS**