

# Field Day Special

## Summer 2020

### Field Day Update

**When:** June 27 to 28, 2020

**Where:** all over the place

As many of you know the traditional annual ARRL Field Day took on a new look this year due to the COVID outbreak. As Amateurs we are quite adept at being problem solvers and we took the new twists and turns as an opportunity to show that we are well prepared to adapt to anything on short notice. We had 11 operators participate this year ranging from one who, literally, just got his licence to some who have been around since Marconi sparked up the airwaves. Some operated in their nice air conditioned shacks while others braved the outdoors in tents and tree houses. Yes, you read that correctly. A treehouse. It was interesting to see how this captivated many members, who normally would not have operated during the event, and sparked new interest. We also had an interesting first for the club in that we ran a Zoom videoconference for just about the entire duration. We would have run it for the entire duration but at 0130 EST Zoom shut the meeting down due to inactivity for the last 40 minutes. Basically, it was telling me that I was a loser for having a meeting with no one but myself in attendance. I took that as a sign and went to bed for a few hours. The Zoom conference allowed members to pop in and see how things were going and for the operators to compare notes and chat. For those who are not familiar, points are earned for things like contacts made, social media announcements, educational displays, off-grid power, etc. Anyway, I hope you enjoy this issue and hope that maybe it will spark even more interest in working Field Day next year.

*73 de Laird VE3LKS*

### VA3TPS - Steve

**Where:** Fenelon Falls, ON

**Section:** ONE

**Power:** <150w

**Class:** 1E – emergency power – generator

**Contacts:** CW: 0 Digital: 168

**Phone:** 83

**Total Points:** 988

**Radio(s):** Yaesu FT DX 3000 with a SignaLink for digital modes

**Antenna(s):** Off-centre fed 134ft dipole with an MFJ tuner

**President's Comments:** Steve, our beloved Past President, takes the North Shore award for **Newest Ham Shack In Field Day**. Steve recently convinced the XYL to let him build a beautiful shack, separate from the house, where he can spend many hours enjoying radio. He has built a nice operating station and even has an appliance in there that keeps beverages nice and cold. Congrats on the nice shack, Steve, and can't wait until you get that new antenna up.



### VE3KZT - John

**Where:** Oshawa, ON

**Section:** GTA

**Power:** <150w

**Class:** 1E – emergency power – solar

**Contacts:** CW: 0 Digital: 0

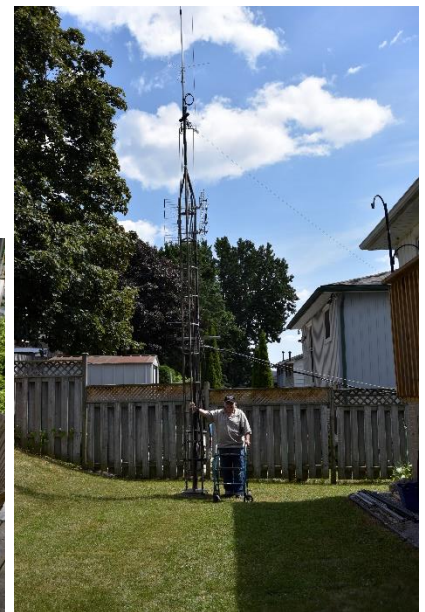
**Phone:** 27

**Total Points:** 204

**Radio(s):** Yaesu FT100D

**Antenna(s):** End fed 40 – 10m dipole

**President's Comments:** John put a lot of detailed thought into his setup for Field Day. Everything from a gazebo to shade him from the sun, a home brew tower configuration and solar panels to run the setup. However, what wins John the North Shore award for **Most Innovative Field Day Station Setup** is his integrated use of the BBQ. What a brilliant idea! You can plunk a mag mount on there for UHF/VHF communications and do up some burgers, dogs and maybe even a nice steak at the same time. John, I will take my medium well with some sautéed mushrooms please.



## VE3IGX - Cam

Where: [Port Perry, ON](#) Section: [GTA](#) Power: [<150w](#) Class: [1B1 – generator](#)

Contacts: CW: [4](#) Digital: [37](#) Phone: [12](#) Total Points: [330](#)

Radio(s): [Icom 7300, Vibroplex paddles and an Alinco DM-330MV power supply](#)

Antenna(s): [G5RV and an MFJ-993B auto tuner](#)

President's Comments: Well, Cam clearly is an Amateur that can plan and be prepared for the future and this talent has earned him the North Shore award for **Most Prepared Operator During Field Day**. Cam not only setup in his tent in the backyard but he also had the foresight to have a mattress and bedding out there too. That sure came in handy in the middle of the night when he tried to get in the house and discovered that his wife had locked all the doors! Something tells me this may not have been the first time.



## VE3VGJ - Joe

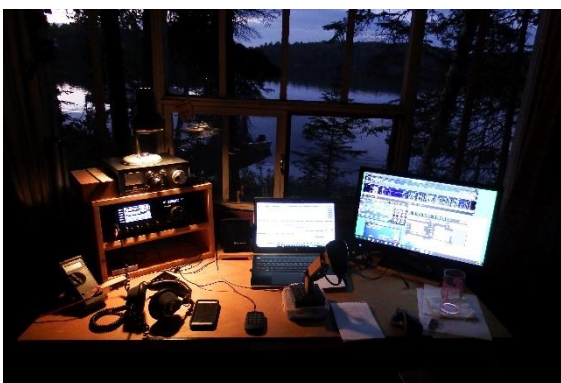
Where: [Bancroft, ON](#) Section: [ONE](#) Power: [<150w](#) Class: [1D](#)

Contacts: CW: [0](#) Digital: [0](#) Phone: [47](#) Total Points: [144](#)

Radio(s): [Yaesu FT DX 3000](#)

Antenna(s): [Homemade multi-band 80 – 10m end-fed half wave with an MFJ-969 tuner](#)

President's Comments: Joe's setup, hands down, takes the North Shore award for **Best View From a Field Day Operating Station**. You can almost hear the loons in the early morning mist calling out their hauntingly vibratoed CQs while Joe was racking up contacts while enjoying his morning tea. Very nice setup, Joe, but I dare you to put it out at the end of the dock next year to get the hard earned mosquito and black fly multiplier for your score.



## VE3HIX - Bob

Where: [Oshawa, ON](#) Section: [GTA](#) Power: [<150w](#) Class: [1D](#)  
Contacts: CW: [170](#) Digital: [0](#) Phone: [3](#) Total Points: [836](#)

Radio(s): [Kenwood TS-590S with a SPEED-X bug, Bencher paddles and a Kent straight key](#)

Antenna(s): [80m inverted V dipole fed with 450 home window line along with an MFJ-949E tuner](#)

President's Comments: Well, as you can easily see by the pictures, Bob walks away uncontested with the North Shore award for **Most CW Keying Devices For Field Day**. Maybe I should see if Bob will lend me back my Kent straight key so I can try some CW next year during Field Day. On second thought, maybe it is better staying in more competent hands for the time being.



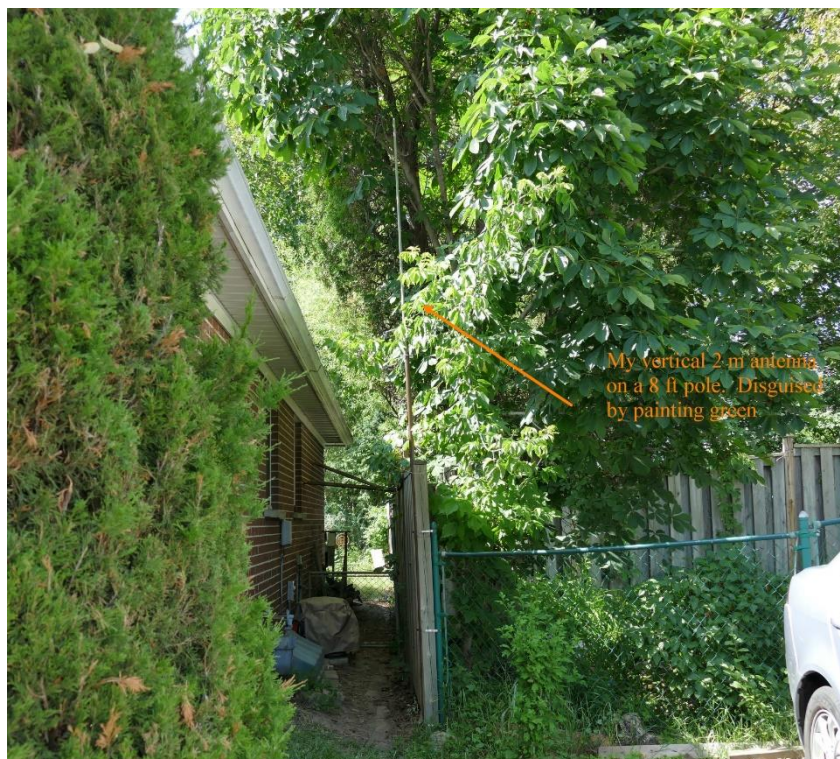
## VA3GDZ - Gary

Where: [Toronto, ON](#) Section: [GTA](#) Power: [<150w](#) Class: [1D](#)  
Contacts: CW: [0](#) Digital: [0](#) Phone: [9](#) Total Points: [68](#)

Radio(s): [Icom ID-4100A](#)

Antenna(s): [Comet GB3 dual band vertical](#)

President's Notes: Gary clearly takes the North Shore award for **Newest Amateur Working Field Day**. Gary studied and received his ticket during this whole COVID ordeal and now is quite active on the airwaves. Seeing his face, like a kid at Christmas, on our Zoom video conference when he made his first few Field Day contacts was priceless. On top of that, this was the first time that Gary had even talked on the radio since getting his licence. BRAVO!!!!



## VA3VZ – Vik & VE3LEX - Lex

Where: [Ajax, ON](#)

Section: [GTA](#)

Power: [<150w](#)

Class: [1B2](#)

Contacts: CW: [0](#) Digital: [0](#)

Phone: [43](#)

Total Points: [176](#)

Radio(s): [Yaesu FT-767](#)

Antenna(s):

**President's Notes:** Vik and Lex easily win the North Shore award for **Coollest Field Day Operating Location**. How can anyone compete with a treehouse? That was a pure stroke of genius and, if the pictures are an indicator, I think more than just the kids were having some fun. Nice to see Gary VE3RYJ joined in the fun too! Fantastic job there gentlemen!



## VA3AG - Aldo

Where: [Courtice, ON](#)

Section: [GTA](#)

Power: [<150w](#)

Class: [1D](#)

Contacts: CW: [2](#) Digital: [0](#)

Phone: [177](#)

Total Points: [412](#)

Radio(s): [Kenwood TS-890S and TS-590SG](#)

Antenna(s): [Off-centre fed dipole with an MFJ-986 tuner](#)

**President's Notes:** Aldo has no idea how good he has it. His lovely wife made him such mouth-watering meals that he, undoubtedly, takes the North Shore award for **Best Fed Field Day Operator**. While some of us were slurping back sodas, munching on chips and maybe a slice or two of cold pizza, Aldo was enjoying meals that I could not even pronounce the names of. I asked if I could do a drive by and get a plate to go but somehow we mysteriously lost communications. It was fun watching Aldo on the Zoom conference knocking out the contacts. Very professional indeed.



## VE3IRB - Robert

Where: [Oshawa, ON](#)

Section: [GTA](#)

Power: [<150w](#)

Class: [1B1 – generator and battery](#)

Contacts: CW: [0](#) Digital: [0](#)

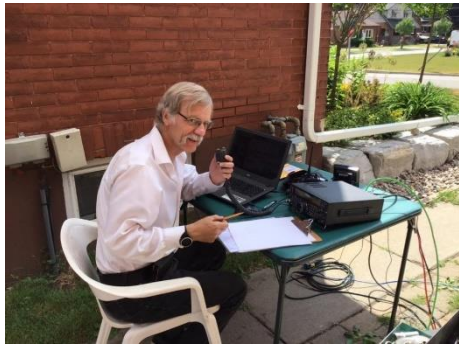
Phone: [17](#)

Total Points: [384](#)

Radio(s): [Kenwood TS-590SG](#)

Antenna(s): [Homemade 40m centre fed dipole](#)

**President's Notes:** Winner of the North Shore award for **Most Exciting Field Day Station** is none other than Robert. He set up an information table near his front sidewalk, was constantly tending to peoples questions as they sauntered by, waved at the mayor during a drive by, and even slept out in his back yard. But, what put Robert over the top for this illustrious award was his real time educational demonstration of how to blow up a power supply using a generator that is putting out too much voltage. He had even arranged for Jeffrey VA3RTV to be on hand to haul it away to his workshop and start the needed repairs. What a great show Robert!



## VE3HYJ - Dennis

Where: [Scarborough, ON](#)

Section: [GTA](#)

Power: [<150w](#)

Class: [1D](#)

Contacts: CW: [240](#) Digital: [0](#)

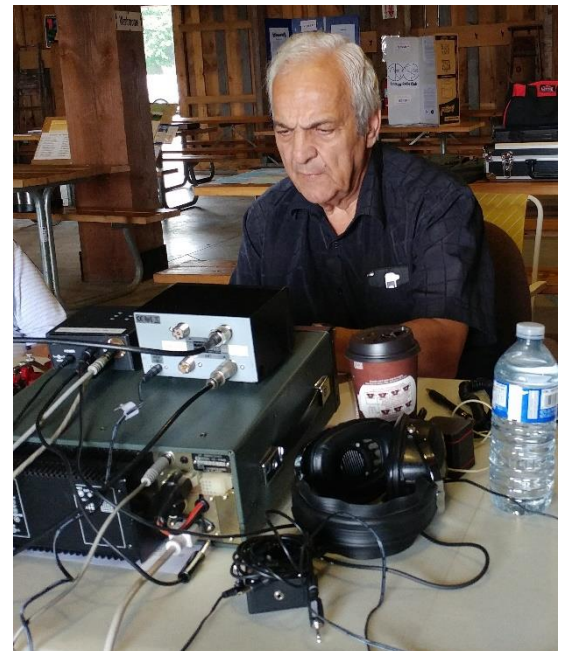
Phone: [0](#)

Total Points: [1,010](#)

Radio(s): [Icom IC-751 and a Heathkit automatic keyer](#)

Antenna(s): [40m dipole with a VS300A tuner](#)

**President's Notes:** Wow! Dennis is nothing short of being a machine on CW. Between him and Bob VE3HIX on CW and Steve VA3TPS on digital we can all just sit back, kick our feet up, and watch them rack up the points for Field Day. So, the award for **Station with the Most Points for Field Day** gets to be placed firmly on the wall of Dennis's shack. A big "Thank You" to Dennis for joining us again this year and here is hoping that we will be able to witness, first hand, him and Bob doing their magic with the keys at next year's Field Day.



# VE3LKS - Laird

Where: [Oshawa, ON](#) Section: [GTA](#) Power: [<150w](#) Class: [1D](#)  
Contacts: CW: [0](#) Digital: [127](#) Phone: [4](#) Total Points: [666](#)

Radio(s): [Yaesu FT-450D with SignalLink USB, Kenwood TM-V71 dual band, MFJ-4245MV power supply](#)

Antenna(s): [G5RV and homemade 40m vertical with an MFJ-993B auto tuner, AR-270 dual band vertical](#)

**President's Notes:** OK, no smart Alec remarks about the score that I ended up with. I have filed for a review with the governing bodies and will be having a wee little chat with our Field Day co-ordinator, Daren VE3NMD, who submitted all the scores to the ARRL. Now, with regards to an award, it would usually be inappropriate for someone to give themselves an award. However, I am going to make an exception and fan my ego. So, without further ado, well maybe just some fanfare, I would like to present myself the **Most Fortunate Amateur Radio Club President in North America** award. I won't bore you with a long-winded acceptance speech but I will tell you why I feel so fortunate? You see, with a team like we have here in the North Shore ARC, it makes my job so much easier to do when I know I can count on so many people to willingly step up to the plate and help out when needed. So, a huge round of applause goes out to all who setup and operated stations, our Field Day Co-ordinator Daren VE3NMD for compiling and submitting all the logs, and all those who simply took the time to join us on Zoom to encourage us and show your support to the North Shore. This will be an award that I will cherish for some time. Of course, if someone else would like an opportunity to take home this coveted prize we will be having club elections in November! 😊

