

Monthly Update

October 2020

October Club Meeting

When: Sunday, November 1, 7:00pm
Where: your place

OK, technically this meeting is in November but close enough. We will have another one later in November too. 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. At this time we are still needing some presentations so please let me know if you have any fun or interesting items that you would like to share with the group. Meetings will only be interesting if **YOU** help make them that way!

September Meeting

On our last Zoom club meeting there was no shortage of great topics. **Bob VE3HIX** showed us how the Repeater Committee is using WION wifi power switches at that repeater site to turn things off and on and to know when the generator is running. **Joe VE3VGJ** shared some great ideas as to how to get the end of a wire up into a tree. **Gary VA3GDZ** had a question around making loops of excess coax and how that may affect the efficiency of the antenna and radio. **Laird VE3LKS** did a show n tell on the Xiegu G90 HF 20w radio and the Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 antenna. **Laird** also did an introduction to POTA – Parks On The Air. **Jeanette, Ken VE3RMK** and **Thomas VE3PDK** gave an update on how the Ride 4 United Way went and the various challenges the organizing team faced with logistics due to COVID.

Membership Time

Yes folks, it is that time of the year that gets our treasurer, **Bob VE3HIX**, giddy with delight. Membership fees are staying the same this year and we are making it easier for you to renew. If you are a member of RAC your North Shore fee is \$30. If you are not a member of RAC then it is \$40. The difference in fees is that if you have a RAC membership you are already covered for insurance. If you are not a member of RAC the club has to pay a \$10 premium for you on our club insurance. Now, to the easy part. Without even having to leave the comfort of your home you can send an e-transfer to **Laird VE3LKS** at VE3LKS@yahoo.ca. If you prefer old school you can send a cheque, made payable to "North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc" to **Laird's** home address. (NOTE: if sending a cheque it MUST be made payable as written here. If it is not then the bank may refuse it.) With proper ID you can give cash to **Laird** at any meetup, such a White Feather or East Mall. Please send an email to Laird with your name, call, email, address, cell and phone number. Now, let's make the inked cloth tape on **Bob's** adding machine wear out!

Parks On The Air – VE-1390

Purple Woods Conservation Area is now a recognized POTA (Parks On The Air) site and has the identifier of VE-1390.

Originally, this park was not on the list of parks eligible for POTA but I contacted the administrators of the program and they put it on the list. On October 10, I made his first attempt to get an official activation, with the help of **Cam VE3IGX**,

Joe VE3VGJ and **Grant VA3KJI**. Sadly, it fell short by a few contacts as band conditions were terrible. However, on October 17, with the help of **Joe VE3VGJ** and **Doug VA3DCE**, I was able to get my first official activation in the log from VE-1390. For the activation I used a Xiegu G90 20watt HF transceiver, a Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 TIA antenna, and a very nice Dakota 23Ah LiFePO4 battery from **Cam VE3IGX**. There are several others who are looking at setting up portable stations so hopefully there will be a few more North Shore activators on POTA soon! For more info check out the official POTA site www.parksontheair.com.

73 de **Laird VE3KS**

Website – ve3osh.com

Jeffrey Golde VA3RTV - SK

It is with great sadness, and a heavy heart, that I have to report that our good friend Jeffrey VA3RTV passed away the morning of September 21, 2020. Recently, Jeffrey was attacked by an aggressive form of cancer but he kept a joyful, positive disposition right up to the end including checking in to our Rag Chew from his hospital bed. His dear wife, Lois, was close by as he slipped peacefully to rest.



Jeffrey was the type of person who touched many lives in a very positive and profound manner and he leaves behind a void that will not be filled. Jeffrey was very knowledgeable on just about any subject matter. If something was not working there was never any doubt that he could get it going again. Whether it was the delicate movements of a fine watch or the mechanical function of a generator, anything that these devices could throw at him were no match for his talents. Jeffrey just had the knack of understanding the issue and finding a solution.

Jeffrey was a valuable member of our repeater team and spent countless hours at the site working on equipment with the other team members. He was especially fond of working on issues with his good friend **Bob VE3HIX**. We used to joke that they were joined at the hip as most times if you saw one the other was close behind. His keen sense of humour was always enjoyed and sometimes you had no idea whether he was stating a fact or making something up that sounded very scientific or profound.

Admittedly, writing announcements like this is not my forte. I am sure that I will remember things that I should have written after this bulletin has been published. I just want to finish off by saying what a fantastic influence Jeffrey was to me. I am sure there are many others that can share the same sentiment. There are not many Jeffrey's in this world and I am glad that our paths crossed and that I got to know this one. Yes, there will be a huge hole in many of our hearts but the fond memories that we have will help ease the pain.

73, OM, 73

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..



Email – info@ve3osh.com

Ride 4 United Way

What a ride! The 2020 Ride 4 United Way. September 27th 2020.

Most of you will be aware the NSARC has a strong history of public service. This is something that we are keen to preserve for the following reasons:

- for the contribution to our community
- as a way of demonstrating to the regulators that we are meeting the 'conditions' of our license
- as a way of supporting our national association in their reporting-advice to the government / international bodies
- practicing and polishing our skills in support of safety, urgent, emergency communications when called on

2020 has been a different year and the situation we find ourselves in called for a much different response when United Way called on us for support. Government directions in response to COVID, meant we weren't sure that the event would even be allowed to take place until the Thursday prior to the event. Even on the Friday before the event we were still getting changes to the type and level of support we would provide. With all of this, NSARC fielded a team to support the Ride 4 United Way.

We set up Net Control at St. Bridget's School in Brooklin. We deployed one operator in a 'food truck / rescue vehicle', and 2 operators to what were called 'critical corners'. At Net Control we had 2 operators and an operator serving as a rover. Social distancing and masks were in use for the event. I will offer no jokes about being 2M apart.

This was an excellent opportunity for training and the pace was much more relaxed than in years past. In total 34 message were passed, including identification and announcements. One rider had to be retrieved from the course and returned to St. Bridget's due to a non-serious health / medical issue. Another rider was retrieved from the course with a serious mechanical issue which could not be repaired. Those of you who know the Ride 4 United Way and the level of expertise of the volunteers from the cycling clubs and businesses will know if they can't fix it at the side of the road, it's pretty bad.

Our 'critical corner' operators were instrumental in keep riders on course. The combination of rider speeds and corners in quick succession kept everyone on their toes.

Special thanks to **Laird VE3LKS**, **Cam VE3IGX**, **Martha VA3SBD**, **Steve VA3TPS** and **Thomas VE3PDK** for their support making this event work. I will also mention **Gerard VE3CWR** who was near his rig when we were checking access to the repeater from St. Bridget's the Saturday before the event. Thanks **Gerard**.

Our repeater performed flawlessly, thanks to the ongoing work of the repeater committee. Thank you all. The feedback we received from United Way was most complementary. Well done everyone! I'm sure we're all looking forward to a more normal year in 2021 and a more normal Ride 4 United Way.

de **Ken VE3RMK**



Wednesday Night Face-to-Face

As well as the Tuesday night rag chew on the repeater there is quite a crew that used to meet at the Tim Horton's at King and Wilson at about

7:30pm every Wednesday. However, that pesky COVID thing has messed that up with not being able to get us all inside so we have adapted. This is what Amateurs do – we adapt. So, for the last while we have been meeting at the north side of the East Mall, just a bit east of Tim's, at about 6:00pm where we break out the lawn chairs and sit around keeping 144MHz apart and enjoying some great conversation and show n tells. Once the weather starts to get bad we will move this to a weekly Zoom meeting at 7pm on Wednesday evening. It will NOT be a club meeting format but just a chance to see each other, chat, show projects or other interesting tidbits with the group, and just have fun. **TAKE THAT COVID!**

Saturday Breakfast

Our Saturday morning meet ups at **White Feather Country Store** has morphed a bit thanks to this COVID annoyance. They had to close their dining area but you can still get take out from the counter. So, if you need your fix of a steamy hot beverage, as well as a hot fritter, pop up to **White Feather Country Store**, which



opens at 8:30am, and then join the gang in the south east corner of the parking lot. Make sure to bring a lawn chair. 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 Country Store** is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan.

JP's Recipes

Not only is **Jeanette** our amazing co-ordinator for the R4UW, keeping the likes of **Ken VE3RMK** up to date on all their latest needs, but she is also an amazing baker. Here is a recipe for her **Impossible Coconut Pie** that is so easy that even your president can make it. Heck, you do not even need to make a crust. Just throw everything in a blender, whip it up, pour it in a pie plate and bake it. Magically a crust will form. Really!



- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup coconut - unsweetened, desiccated
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla

Put all into blender, except coconut, and blend. Mix in coconut and pour into a 10 inch greased pie tin. Bake at 350F for about 1 hour until center tests firm. Top will be a nice golden brown.

Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 TIA



An antenna that has caught the attention of many Amateurs recently is the Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 TIA (Take It Along). Quick to set up, pretty easy to manually tune, and good results are making it popular for portable activations everywhere. The antenna consists of a coil that has three legs screwed into the bottom to form the stand. The coax also connects on the bottom. Currently, I have three 33' ground planes but you could easily add more. A collapsible 102" whip attaches to the top of the coil. That's it. In literally less than five minutes you can be ready to transmit. You should set it up and play with the adjusting sleeve on the coil to figure out where your best SWR is on the various bands and then

mark those points so you can return to them easily in the future. The antenna is rated for 100w SSB and 25w CW and Digital. With winter approaching, I have ordered a tri-magnet for the roof of my vehicle so instead of attaching the coil to the stand legs I can just attach it directly to the mag mount when I get to where I want to transmit. Don't worry, I will not be leaving it mounted like that to travel. Operators are reporting that you do not need the radials if you have it mounted on your vehicle.

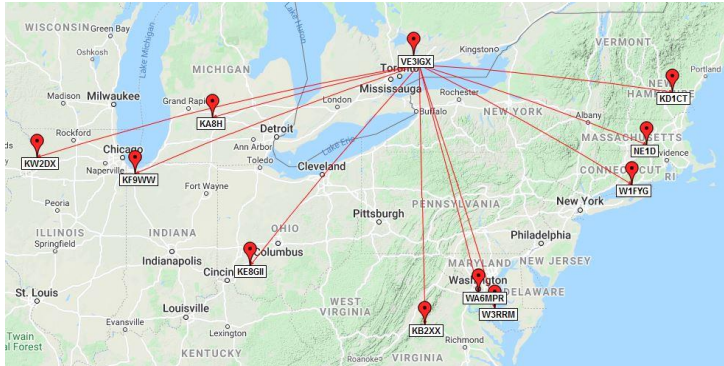
QRM from the Shack

COVID has been a huge inconvenience the last eight months and looks like it will continue being a pain in the patootie for the foreseeable future. One good side effect, at least for me, has been the extra time that I have been able to have enjoying Amateur Radio. I have purchased a couple more radios, an FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF 100w mobile and a Xiegu G90 HF 20w mobile. See pic below. Add to that a Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 TIA portable HF antenna and a few other goodies and I have been like a kid at Christmas. Have you been enjoying radio more during this time? If so, drop me a line, let me know what you have been doing, send a pic or two if you have some, and we will put it in the next bulletin.

I am always happy when I can introduce new members to the North Shore ARC and this month we have two! **Warren VA3WEB** has been coming to our meet ups at the East Mall and White Feather Farm and joining in on the fun. From what I have been able to ascertain during some brief discussions **Warren** has been an Amateur for several years and used to enjoy satellite communications. **Michel (Mike) VA3MCX** is a familiar call to many of us as he lived in our area for quite a few years before heading to the northland. **Mike** was a member and helped out with many events including our Hamfest. Great to have you back as a member, **Mike**, and you will have to fill us in on what sort of fun you are having with radio up there in Kapuskasing.

It was nice having **Walter Cang VA3WYC**, aka **DW7NI**, join us on our last Zoom meeting all the way from the Philippines. If you have been a member of the club for more than the last five years you are probably familiar with **Walter**. Many of us wish that **Walter** was still roaming our area but understand that family takes priority. There will always be a place of him should he ever decide to return to Canada.

Parks On The Air has become part of the Amateur Radio hobby that I am really enjoying. Both hunting stations that are operating at a park somewhere in the world or activating one here in the area brings a few good hours of enjoyment. Here is a map of the stations contacted during the activation that I did on Oct 17. My favorite contact during this activation was with **Cam VE3IGX** all the way up in Port Perry!



For Sale – when I purchased my Xiegu G90 package I actually purchased two. Unfortunately, the person who was going to purchase the second set is no longer in need of it and so I am putting it up for sale. This package consists of the Xiegu G90 HF radio, G90-H1 cooling fan/stand unit, CE-19 expansion card interface kit, the LPFX7 filter, and the PAX100 100watt amplifier. I am just trying to get what I have in it so the first person with \$1,000 will be the proud owner of this package.

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

73 de Laird VE3LKS

