

Monthly Update

May 2021

May Club Meeting

When: **Cancelled**

Where: your place

Sorry folks, but no one came forward with any meeting topics that they were willing to present so there will be no meeting this month.

April Meeting

On our April meeting we had **Lou NO2C** and **Salli K2RYD** of Islip Terrace, NY on Long Island. **Lou** and **Salli** are members of the Great South Bay ARC who were instrumental in organizing the recent Last Man Standing special event. They gave a very informative presentation on the LMS special event and also on what goes into setting up and running on air special events.

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 Tuesday's pop onto OSH and join the conversation. As well, since this is a rag chew, and not a net. **Laird VE3LKS** will not be running the weekly Rag Chew net and we are looking for volunteers to step up and help This is not a hard task and is good practice in case you are ever required to run a control situation in an emergency, so whoever is there just needs to write down call signs and rotate through the list twice. You can email **Laird VE3LKS** the list afterwards and I will put the names in the log that we keep. So, make sure you have a pad of paper and a pen or pencil and be prepared to have some fun.



Latest Update is that in recent weeks, **Grant VA3KJI**, **Aldo VA3AG**, **John VE3KJI**, **Laird VE3LKS** and myself, **Steve VA3TPS**, have taken turns at Net Control. I have been selected to try and keep a list of volunteers and dates who are willing to take a turn at Net Control. So check your calendars for Tuesday nights and if your interested send me an email n and I will pencil you in. If we have enough volunteers, you only have to do it once every 6-8 weeks or so and no one person gets stuck doing it all the time...so come on everyone let's help out our club and the members! My email is va3tps@outlook.com

Wednesday Night Virtual Parking Lot

Our Wednesday night face to face is now a Virtual Parking Lot meeting over zoom so make sure **Laird VE3LKS** has your email and he will be sending out the zoom invites every Wednesday morning or afternoon. Before COVID hit there was 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, we moved our weekly meet-ups outdoors to a lonely parking lot, set up our lawn chairs, and safely distanced at 144MHz (2m) apart and enjoyed some great conversation and show n tells. Then it got cold and dark too early so we adapted, once again, and took to a weekly zoom meeting. **TAKE THAT COVID!** It has actually been quite a success as more people can show up, due to distance or schedules, and yet we can still do show n tells by simply sharing our screens. It is not uncommon to have 20 to 25 participants but we can easily handle more. So, quit complaining about being bored and hop on the Virtual Parking Lot.



Website – ve3osh.com

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, just south of our repeater site.

Swap Shop

For Sale

Yaesu MLS-200-M10 Speaker, good condition. Moisture and dust protected, 10ft shielded cord. Handle up to 8watts .3.5mm 3conductor mini plug, 4 ohms (Note: speaker is wired to the tip (+) and ring (-) of 3 conductor mini plug and may not work with all radios) asking \$20 Steve VA3TPS va3tps@outlook.com

Paradan Antenna Disconnect Actuator and Radio on Sensor. Switches your antenna to ground when radio is powered off to prevent damage from lightning or static electricity. New never used. \$80.00 Steve VA3TPS at va3tps@outlook.com

Kenwood TM-2530A 2m mobile, 5w/25w, Microphone with Up/Down buttons Cigarette lighter plug asking \$125 or best reasonable offer.

Not sure if I ever had a manual or mobile mount but will do some digging. I ran this as my lgate for several years. Check out more info at <https://www.manualslib.com/manual/86424/Kenwood-Tm-2530a.html> Contact Laird VE3LKS at VE3LKS@yahoo.ca

Icom IC-728 HF transceiver - with Icom AT-160 auto antenna tuner. Comes with stock mic and all cables needed for connecting. Just plug an HF antenna in and away you go. \$500. Contact Laird VE3LKS at <mailto:VE3LKS@yahoo.ca>

Retevis RT3 Analog/DMR Handi Talkie - UHF 5 watts. Comes with extra battery, drop in charger, programming cable and original box. Works 100% very little use. \$ 100.00 plus shipping. I can program a code plug for you. Contact Aldo at 905-429-7320

Sangean ATS-803A Short Wave receiver. FM - 87.2-108MHz. AM – 150 – 29999KHz (LW 150 – 281KHz, MW 520-1620KHz, SW 11-120m). Requires 6 – D and two 2 – AA batteries. Can also run with an external power adapter that you can source online. Have two of these radios. \$75.00 each. Contact Laird VE3LKS at VE3LKS@yahoo.ca



Email – info@ve3osh.com

Finding Issues on Coax

Good coax that is terminated with the characteristic impedance (resistance) will not reflect any signal to cause a standing wave. It does not matter what the source impedance is - the lower the better. Of course, any mismatch on the antenna end that sends a signal back, a low source resistance will reflect most it back to the antenna. A high source resistance will absorb the power and heat the transmitter output amp.

At Pickering NGS, sensors in the reactor and area give pulses and any reflections look like additional signal. Some of these coax were well over 100 ft long. We had a lot of problems - so to find out where, I used a time domain reflectometer plug-in on the scope. I found the propagation delay by using a known length and used this to find the distance to the problem. These coax cables came out of the

reactor building wall through a plastic assembly mounted in an air-tight box. The reactor buildings are airtight and through the ventilation system run at a slight vacuum. These assemblies were epoxy and while setting, got warm melting the coax.

We made up three that included thermocouples to measure the temp rise.

And then X-rayed them. This is one of them. You can see the thermocouples - but look at the centre wire of the coax. Some places almost touching the shielding - giving a good mismatch. 😊

As a result, we also tried it on the DF wiring and could find an open to within a

few meters. I understand that it became a standard for finding broken wires.

*** Camp X Tidbit ***

Regarding Camp X. One of the main reasons for locating Camp X where they did was because of the very good wireless propagation to Britain. (Bletchley et. al.) The communications and the 'military' training were separate entities.

A side comment: They had a still to get the demin water for transmitter cooling. It was only run every two weeks or so - at least for the water. It seemed to be a waste to leave it unused. Apparently they produced some really good XXXX and some of it left in the protected 'bag'. **73 Stan VE3ILU**

Editor's Note

I want to thank **Stan VE3ILU** for his recent article. I would also like to encourage anyone with stories or amateur radio related information to send it to me so we can share with everyone. If you're doing a parks on the air (POTA) or special event or operating from a unique location, take a couple of pictures and send it to me. If you have some new equipment and radios or just a picture or two of your shack send them along.

Also don't forget the Swap Shop, if you're looking for something to pick up or have something to sale or give away, send me the information and I will put it in the bulletin. My email is va3tps@outlook.com.

On Going project

A year ago I ordered a Tri-band beam from Cushcraft, an A6-270-13S, which will cover 2m, 440 and 6m. Apparently Cushcraft lost my order and then with COVID issues it finally arrived a few weeks ago.



I have started putting it together and so far have the 2m and 440 sections done and now for the 6m and then to set it up temporarily and check the match on the different bands. Hopefully the fellow who is going to install it on the roof of my garage will be here near the end of June and I hope to enjoy some 6m summer propagation.

Don't forget if you have a project you working on send a picture or two and short write up and we can share with everyone.

New 440 Repeater

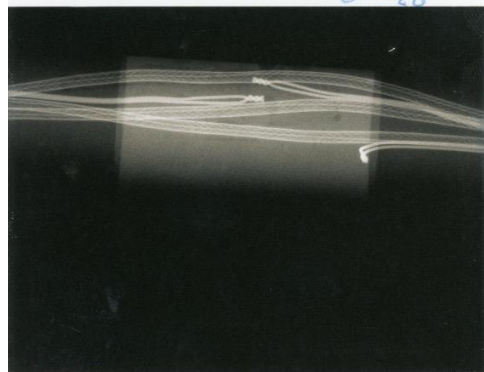
Our new 440 Yaesu Fusion Repeater is up and running and the Wirex X and Fusion are working great! Many thanks to **Aldo VA3AG** and the other repeater team members for all the work they do on our Repeater system. **73 de Steve VA3TPS**

Field Day 2021

Field Day 2021 is almost upon us.

Due to COVID still nagging us the ARRL has decided to keep the operating rules the same as last year with one exception - if you are a class D or E station you are limited to 150w output. Class D is a home

station and Class E is a home station running radios on emergency power. Hmm, I just may have to bring a battery down to the shack and run the radio off of it to claim Class E and get extra points as well. We plan on running a Zoom meeting for the duration of the event so operators can keep in contact with each other and members can drop by to say "Hi" and see how things are going. Last year was a blast and I think this year's event can be just as fun if not more! **Aldo VA3AG** even said he would be bringing a portable "Din Din Time" BBQ to each operator's house and supplying a lovely steak dinner and **Jeanette** will follow behind with a smorgasbord of desserts! 😊 OK, some of that may not be true but one can dream. More info will be coming out soon. Field Day starts at 1800UTC on June 26 and ends at 2059UTC on June 27. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> for more info. If you are going to operate please let **Daren VE3NMD** know ASAP. **Daren** can be reached at daren.bachmeier@cbc.ca



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QRM from the Shack

Busy month. Very busy month. Working the regular 9 to 4. Doing some after hours business as well. Getting my weekly "essential" groceries at WFF. Working on getting the yard in shape for summer enjoyment. Planting flowers and watching peppers and tomatoes grow. Testing antennas. Enjoying the weekly Rag Chews. Helping arrange equipment transfers between those who have it and those who need it. Sourcing parts and waiting anxiously for deliveries to arrive. Starting to prep for Field Day. No, the fun just keeps on going and going and thank goodness the weather is cooperating somewhat. Although, I could use some rain to help set the grass over seeding that I did.

Since the last edition of the Update our Membership Secretary has been kept busy. Heck, we even had to order more membership cards and we have an order placed for badges for these new members. **Derek VE3TKE** has jumped right in and gotten comfortable with the gang to the point where he is starting to dish out good-natured barbs with the best of us. Keep that great attitude up **Derek! Ted VA3FZZ**, of the Lindsay area, also recently became a member thanks to our darling **SWL Lois**. I hope that **Lois** did not inflict any pain or threaten bodily harm to **Ted** if he didn't join and that it was just her sweet nature that won him over. **Ted** has been joining us on our Virtual Parking Lot meet ups and is a welcome addition to our group. We also have a couple of past members who have connected with the North Shore again. Some of you will remember **Sabrina VA3AXU** and **Alex VE3ZSH** who were with us several years ago but, unfortunately for us, moved out of the area to pursue their careers downtown Toronto. It has been great seeing them on our Virtual Parking Lots and catching up on what they have been up to. Personally, this COVID thing can't end fast enough for me. We need to have BBQ at the repeater site and get a chance to meet face-to-face all these new and returning members.

I would like to second **Steve VA3TPS's** acknowledgement of **Stan VE3ILU's** article this month. I wish that I knew 1/10th of what some of our members know about electronics. It was also interesting to hear about the top secret booze that was being made at Camp X and smuggled out in the Top Secret documents bag. Hmmm, I wonder if there is a club fundraising project here creating a special beverage, calling it something like Camp X XXX, and mass marketing it? We could come up with a unique way to identify its potency by using a dBi or Watts descriptor such as 7.0 dBi or 80 Watts output. OK, who has some sheets of copper laying around and knows how to make a still? ☺



Ran into **Tom VA3TGW** at our favourite grocery store. It is a good thing that **Lex VE3LEX**, a retired auto mechanic, and my Harley Support Vehicle were there as **Tom's** battery decided it was a great place to call it quits. We had some backup support from **Derek VE3TKE**, **Daren VE3NMD** and **Vik VA3VZ**. Unfortunately, we could not get it running, despite connecting directly to the starter, so **Tom** had to trailer it home. This is not the first time a battery on one of his many Harley's had died there. Hopefully it will not happen again. None the less, a good time was had by all.

Quite a few people have expressed interest in a roll-up JPole. These antennas are great for portable use if you are going on a picnic or camping but can also be

installed permanently at home as well. I have included a diagram that I found online and am trying to source out some 450 Ohm ladder line so that if anyone wants to make one then supplies will be convenient to get. This antenna is so easy to make that even I can build it. Even if you make a total mess of it there is a good chance that it will probably still work. Just as **Larry VE3LWJ** as he has one of the ugliest roll-up JPoles that I have ever built and it has lasted several years outside no worse for wear.

June would normally be our summer kick-off BBQ at the repeater site but I don't think COVID restrictions will be lax enough by then to permit us to have large groups. So, I am asking you to consider giving a presentation for your club so that we can have one last meeting before the summer. As well please support **Steve VA3TPS**, our newsletter editor, by submitting articles to him. It does not have to be anything long and fancy. A few pics of your operating setup at home or in your vehicle with a short description. A project you are working on. A unique place that you like to operate from. A cool experience you have had with radio. I saw a go kit this morning that would make a great short article. Very well thought out and uber practical. So, help make the club more interesting by sharing your experiences.

I think I have officially run out of space for this month's ramblings so I had better say 73 and wish you a great weekend.

73 de **Laird VE3LKS**

