

Monthly Update

Summer 2021

June Club Meeting

When: **Undetermined at this time due to the Rona**
Where: your guess is as good as mine

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



At our zoom meetings we have Amateurs from around the globe, Hawaii , Labrador, Sudbury ,Kapusking I thought being in Fenelon Falls I was DX but apparently I am just another local ham. So come out and join us on Wednesday's!

Ride for United Way

It's official! The Ride 4 United way is set to run on Sunday, September 26. **Ken VE3RMK** is the lead on this project and has indicated that they will be needing the following:

- 2 rovers (food truck / repair truck) - portable mobile rig / antenna for use in another vehicle
- 6 corner monitors - personal mobile rig / vehicle, HT

- 1 runner (myself most likely although not cast in stone - HT
- 2 or 3 Net Control (one experienced and 2 who want to learn) - portable mobile rig / antenna for fixed ops.

NOTA BENE - if there are more who want to practice Net Control skills and we've filled all of the corner monitor assignments we'll take more. I would even consider swapping roles part way through the day if that makes things easier for folks to volunteer. You can reach Ken by email at koronovichs@sympatico.ca

We still do not know the scope of the requirement, but we are told by United Way that this year's format will be much like last year. Because this is very much a 'fog of war' situation all of the above might change.

White Feather Fun!

On a recent weekend meetup in Raglan we had 19 people show up. So, if you are sitting at home wondering where all the excitement is you don't have to look any further. Heck, we even spotted cash changing hands, equipment being discretely shunted between vehicles, and, of course, there were the fritters. You do not need to be a member of the North Shore to join in the fun. If your club is struggling to do social events we are more than happy to have you join us and promise we won't tell them. ☺ We won't even bug you about membership as we truly feel that if you enjoy our company and events that you will want to join anyway. Details about our White Feather weekly event is right below in the "Saturday Breakfast" section.



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

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>

Package Deal – Yaesu FT-450D HF/50MHz transceiver - with built-in auto antenna tuner and stock mic with up/down buttons. **Signalink USB sound card** for working digital modes such as FT8. All cables needed to connect Signalink to the FT-450D and the CAT cable to connect FT-450D to radio. \$950. Contact Laird VE3LKS at 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

Maple Leaf Communications 40-80m Dipole Antenna - it was damaged by the post office (small cut in coax) new in the box. Would like \$100.00. Contact John VE3KZT

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



Well, Field Day 2021 is in the bag and, like last year, we made the best of a bad situation (COVID) and had a blast! Below are most of the operators with some pics of their setups

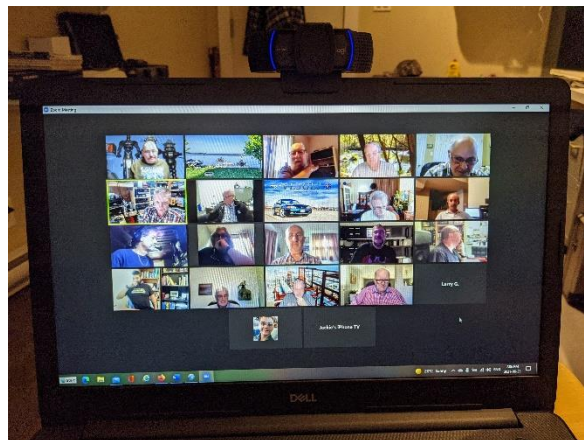
Grant VA3KJI

Grant, you could at least try to make it look like you were roughing it during Field Day. Sitting on the porch of your trailer, making contacts with your rig, and having Lisa bring your cool, refreshing beverages just does not cut it! We will give you credit, though, for the battery power and fold up desk. ☺ Glad to have you on board with us this year!



Gary VA3GDZ

Gary was once again racking up the contacts on 2m from his home QTH in Toronto. Gary was also a regular participant on our Field Day zoom meeting and kept us entertained. If I believed in reincarnation I would guess that Gary was a court jester in a previous life! Great having you with us again, Gary, and hopefully next year we will be able to get you onto HF so you can entertain the world.



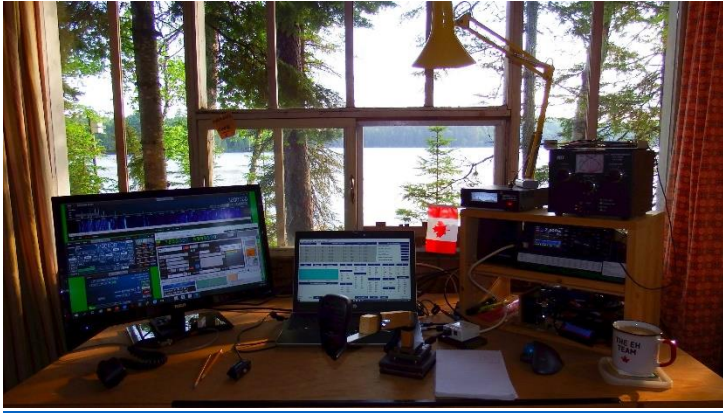
Larry VE3LWJ

Larry was definitely the most distinguished looking character of the bunch. This was Larry's first Field Day and, despite a few hiccups, managed to have some fun. Great looking operating station there, Larry, and very organized. Can't wait to hear you calling CQ Field Day next year with the new antenna installation you are working on.



Joe VE3VGJ

Nothing better than being able to operate Field Day than with a view like this. The sounds of loons calling out, and I am not referring to the ones calling "CQ Field Day", a gentle breeze off the lake, and being able to go for a cool, refreshing dip when it gets too hot just can't be beat.



Steve VA3TPS

Steve is living in the lap of luxury. Similar to Joe VE3VGJ Steve has all the benefits of being on a lake. The only difference is that this is his permanent, year round, ham shack! Steve has not had a chance to put the beam on top of the shack yet but he got very innovative and mounted it in a trailer instead. I hear his wife was getting a bit tired of him asking her to rotate the trailer so that he could point the beam a different direction! 😊 That sure is one nice looking trailer though.



Robert VE3IRB

All I can say is that Robert NEVER disappoints us with creative ways to be different than the rest of us on Field Day. We figured it was going to be hard for him to top last year's antics but he came through in the clutch. Robert has one of those fancy radios with dual antenna jacks so you can have two antennas connected at once. One of the features is that you can transmit on one and listen on the other. Well, Robert had his set up to do exactly that...even though he did not realize it. A brilliant stroke of genius one might say. However, on the receive antenna jack he did not have anything connected to it. Amazingly, he actually made a few contacts including one from a super mega station in east Oshawa that came pounding through the coaxless connector and opened the squelch so he could have a QSO. Of course, once the folly of his way was discovered he went back to making contacts the same boring way everyone else did. Robert really is a humble person and did not want to show us up.



Derek VE3TKE

Derek was also a part of the VE3IRB "Really Special Event" station and spent some time operating Robert's radio. This was Derek's first Field Day and it sounded like he was having a great time despite the receive limitations. Hopefully we will either be able to all get together at one location again next year or Derek will have his own station set up and running by then. Great work there Derek and you get full marks for trying to keep your gracious host in line. Definitely not an easy task.



Aldo VA3AG

Not sure if the neighbor's plasma TV caused any interference for Aldo but he sure was running a nice looking station. I think this pic must have been taken when he was away for "din din" as he is nowhere to be seen, but he sure was busy racking up the points when he was behind the mic.



Bob VE3HIX

Bob is another one of those guys who has everything neat and tidy in his shack with no clutter to be seen anywhere. I truly believe the old adage that a clean shack is a sign of a sick mind! 😊 Bob made use of all those keys on the desk and made copious amounts of CW contacts with other CW fanatics around the world.



Laird VE3LKS

Ok, now take a good look at my station. This is what a radio shack is supposed to look like. Radios scattered throughout. Cables running every which way. Parts and accessories within an easy arms reach. I know that guys like **Bob VE3HIX** and **Larry VE3LWJ** will look at this setup with envy and I am willing to visit their locations to help them get their shacks into peak operating condition like mine. 😊 I really enjoyed Field Day again this year as the allergies were starting to peak, as they usually do at this time of year, and I was able to operate in the luxury of air conditioning so was not affected like when we are out in a field.



Lois SWL

I saved the best for last. Talk about members going the extra mile. Midway through the afternoon the doorbell rang. I could not remember having ordered anything from Amazon, Radioworld, DX Engineering or Ham Radio Outlet so was expecting it to be my next door neighbor needing some onions or help fixing something. What a great surprise to be greeted by Lois bearing boxes of donuts and muffins! Lois is an amazing lady always thinking of others. I think we need to throw our bum of a club president out of office and vote Lois in to that position! Thank you, Lois, for making Field Day extra special this year!



Editor's Note

Well I have finally got the new antenna put together, I put it on a pole and stuck the pole into deck blocks in my little trailer. I was able to check my match on VHF/UHF and both were around 1.4 to 1. On 6m it took a couple of adjustments and I got it down to 1.2 to 1. So, what do you do with an antenna with a good match? You get on the air, I ran some coax into the shack and went to 6m, there was an opening and away we go over the next few days on and off I made a few dozen contacts down to the south USA, Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas and all over there and that was only about 10' off the ground can't wait to get it on the roof of the garage with the rotor!



73 de **Steve VA3TPS**



As most have probably heard already, we have been asked to be part of the Ontario Regiment Museum's Aquino Tank Weekend this year from Friday, Sep 17 to Sunday, Sep 19.

We will be provided with two sections of military tenting so that we can set up radios and displays as well as placing a WWII military communications vehicle at our location. We are planning on running four stations. We will have a CW station, located next to the WWII communications vehicle, and HF Phone station and HF Digital (FT8, FT4, etc) in the tent and a roving and/or stationary AllStar/Fusion/DMR station. For each station we will need an operator and a logger and we will also be needing some people to be public relations people to chat with visitors who are stopping by.

We are planning on having a special QSL card made up and have already started to advertise this online with Amateur Radio social media influencers.

You will have received an email from the club asking you to fill in a survey if you are interested in helping out with the Ontario Regiment Museum's Aquino Tank Weekend event where we will be putting on a working display of Amateur Radio communications. If you are interested in helping out with this event please fill in the survey.

The one downside is that we will be limited to 9 or 10 North Shore members on-site at any one time. However, we think that we can work around this by having some people do either a morning or afternoon shift and this may actually be beneficial for some. The survey above asks for your time slot availability, equipment you may be able to supply, and to list the areas where your expertise would be beneficial for us.

QRM from the Shack

I honestly believe that there are no issues that our club members, as a whole, can't remedy. A perfect example of this is our recent woes with the generator spitting and sputtering and sometimes firing up and sometimes not. It was almost as cantankerous as some of our members! ☺ Well, **Bob VE3HIX, Lex VE3LEX and Joe VE3VGI** put their equipment resources and brain cells together and solved the issue. It turns out that the regulator adjustment on the propane tank had vibrated out of adjustment and was only allowing a minimum amount of propane through the line. After that was adjusted to the proper pressure all seems to be back to normal. Tnx, gents, for your service.

Quite a few of the COVID restrictions have been lifted or lessened so I approached CLOCA to see if it was going to be possible to get a permit to use the repeater site for a BBQ or two and a corn roast. At this time they are not issuing permits due to the cleaning requirements that they are still required to do. This affects us as we like to be able to use the restroom facilities and there are no porta potties on site. So, this puts a bit of a crimp in plans as we really do need this for our members. As well, we have not been able to figure out what the food serving requirements would be and if we would be able to have potluck style food or if everything would have to be prepackaged. If things change we will jump on permits and get some social eating function up and running.

What have you been doing with Amateur Radio this summer? POTA? SOTA? Contests? Projects? Whatever you have been doing you need to send **Steve VA3TPS** a few sentences and a pic or two so he can include it in the Update. Even if you have just been keeping cool in your shack chasing parks or working DX we are interested in your activities.

I don't know about you but I am looking forward to September. One weekend we will be calling CQ CQ with tanks rumbling by and all sorts of armaments being fired. I love the smell of gunpowder in the morning! Then, the following weekend, we get to help out JP, also known as Jeanette, with the Ride 4 United Way. We will be counting on members to be able to free up their time and help out where and whenever possible. Hmmm, I wonder if White Feather would be interested in setting up shop at the Aquino event so that we do not miss out on fritters that weekend? Ubert!!!

Well, the supply chain is starting to crawl along again. A couple of weeks ago I finally received the new Yaesu 991A that had been on backorder since the end of May. It is now setup in the shack and merrily making phone and FT8 contacts worldwide. As well, the XYL returned from the US where she was visiting family, and brought with her the EARCHI endfed antenna that I had ordered. They only ship within the USA so I had it conveniently shipped to the inlaws. This is the antenna that VE3SCU "Hawaii Dave" have been telling us about when he joins us on the Virtual Parking Lot.

For any club members who are building a wire antenna let me know if you need any wire. I was given some spools and am willing to share it with those who are making something. Sorry, but this offer is for North Shore members only at this time.

We have a couple of new members as of a couple days ago but I will defer to the next bulletin to introduce them to the club once I know a bit more about them.

Well, I am quickly running out of space so I will say 73 and look forward to hearing from you on the weekly Rag Chew, Virtual Parking Lot, White Feather meetup, or just a casual chat on the repeater.

73 de **Laird VE3LKS**

