

Monthly Update

March 2022

www.ve3osh.com

Club Executive

President – **Derek VE3TKE**
Vice President: **John SWL**
Secretary: **Jackie VA3BTQ**
Treasurer: **Bob VE3HIX**
Membership Secretary: **Thomas VE3PDK**
Past President: **Laird VE3LKS**

Committee's

Repeater & Technical -Trustee: **Lex VE3LEX**
Website: **Laird VE3LKS**
Club Examiner: **Aldo VA3AG**
Newsletter: **Steve VA3TPS**
Net Manager: **Steve VA3TPS**
Presentation Coordinator: **John VE3KZT**
RAC Representative: **Ken VE3RMK**

March Meeting

When: Wednesday March 16, 2022 at 7:00pm

Due to on the on-going Covid 19 restrictions we will be continuing our monthly meetings by Zoom and we will be holding them on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. These are also the nights of our weekly Virtual parking lot Zoom meetings but on the third Wednesday the first 30 to 45 minutes we will have a presentation on an amateur radio topic. Following the presentation will be our official club meeting to deal with club business and then time permitting we will carry on with the Virtual Parking lot.

This month **John VE3KZT** has two presentations for us, with the first one on the Raspberry PI by **Daryl Corbett VA3UAP** and the second on Hotspots by **Allan Boyd VE3AJB**.

February Club Meeting

At our February meeting **Laird VE3LKS** gave us a breakdown of the previous Tuesday Night Rag chew stats about the number of check-ins and those with the best attendance. Congratulations to **Joe VE3VJG** and **Laird VE3LKS** for their GOLD medal attendance record.

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 2000 hrs on Tuesday's pop onto the VE3OSH repeater and join in the conversation. As well, since this is a rag chew, and not a net, we are looking for volunteers to step up and help by being a Net Control Operator. This is not a hard task and is good practice in

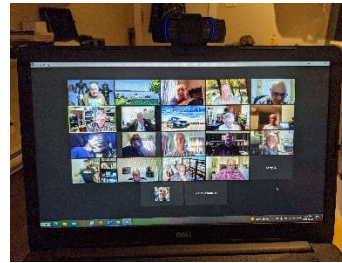


Website – ve3osh.com

case you are ever required to run a controlled situation in an emergency, so whoever is there just needs to write down call signs and rotate through the list twice. You can email **Derek VE3TKE** the list afterwards and he will put the names in the log that we keep. So, make sure your computer is working and you have an Excel or equivalent program to enter data in the supplied spreadsheet. You can also use a pad of paper and a pen or pencil instead of the computer. Pen and paper is also a good backup. It's also a good test of your 2m radio equipment. Be prepared to have some fun. To see who will be the net control operator for any given Tuesday night you can check the club calendar on VE3OSH.com website.

Latest Update is that in recent weeks, **Grant VA3KJI**, **Aldo VA3AG**, **John VE3KZT**, **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 you're interested send me an email 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 **Derek VE3TKE** has your email address. **Laird VE3LKS** 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 7:30 pm 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 144 MHz (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 and Kapuskasing and Australia. 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!

On Wednesday January 12 our VPL welcome a new guest from Australia, **Graham VK4GRA**, I wonder from what country our next guest will be from? So, try to remember Wednesday nights and drop by our Zoom VPL and say hello and see who is visiting from around the globe. It starts around 7:00 pm and last until the last die-hard leaves but you can pop in anytime and say hello and stay as long or short as you want.

Email – info@ve3osh.com

White Feather Fun!



February 26, 2022 Good turnout at WFF last Saturday. Temperature was in the negative single digits and that's on the Celsius scale good thing it wasn't Fahrenheit.

Joe VE3VGJ took a special group photo wishing **Larry VA3FHG** all the best. If you don't know Larry has been in the hospital for a while and will be in for a while yet. By the way the sign Jeanette is holding says "VA3FHG Fort Henry Guard", the sun was very bright and washed it out. I have also attached a picture of Larry at the Bancroft Sled Dog Races. It was taken many years ago when a group of us supplied communication for the event. We also had a bit of show and tell, **John VE3KZT** and **Derek VE3TKE** brought up their home-made antennas. (thanks to **Joe VE3VGJ** for picture and story)

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 lately a variety of CW Keys for others to try in the CW training class that's now be offered. The other major attraction to WFF is of course, the WFF fritters. You do not need to be a member of the North Shore Club 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



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 8:30 am, and then join the gang in the south east corner of the parking lot. Make sure to bring a lawn chair as we now sit outside in the parking lot. Just give a shout on the VE3OSH repeater between 8:00 and 8:20 to see if anyone is heading up that way and come and join us. **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

I am looking for items for sale or wanted by anyone to put here in our Update. If your shack cleaning and trying to get rid of some stuff put it here in the update and also if you're looking for any items, cables, connectors, antenna's and so on we can put it in here and hopefully some one might have what you need. With the Hamfest's put on hold due to Covid, this is a good way to give away or sell some of those boxes of great stuff you don't need or use.

For Sale:

For Sale:

A uniden handheld scanner BC75XLT asking \$80

An Alinco DJ-V17 2m 5w handheld, battery is weak, radio is awesome, asking \$35

If interested please call Grant VA3KJI 289-685-6875 email grabutcher2@gmail.com

Station of the Month

February's Shack of the month is from **Derek VE3TKS**



Above Shack HF Details: ICOM IC-7300 HF Rig, Heil ICM Microphone, Microphone Stand, MFJ-564 Iambic Keyer, LDG AT-200Pro II Autotuner, Diamond SX-200 SWR & Power Meter, Jetstream JTPS30LCD Power Supply and MFJ-264 1.5KW Dummy Load. VHF/UHF Details: Kenwood TM-731A 144/440 Mhz Dual Bander connected to home brew Slim-Jim antenna mounted on the rear deck.

Below: Alpha Delta Model DX-CC Multi-band Dipole.



Mobile Installation: Details: Lido HT Car Seat Bolt Mount with Yaesu FT-70D Hand Held with SSM-17A remote microphone connected to MFJ-333B5 Mag Mount with Comet SBB-5 VHF/UHF (2M 1/2 wave / 70 cm 5/8 wave) Mobile Antenna.



Thanks **Derek**. Don't forget I need some more pictures of your Radio Shacks so send the picture and info to **Steve VA3TPS** at va3tps@outlook.com

Morse Code Training



The CW training class that started in January on zoom with **Aldo VA3AG** providing instruction and **Bob VE3HIX** as support has had eleven (11) classes to date. The class started with 13 of our members and now we are down to 12 members attending regularly. It is a diverse group with some with no experience and others just refreshing their code and speed. So far it has been slow, but they are progressing. It's tough teaching old dog's new tricks...hi hi but we got all winter. Thanks **Aldo!**

Editor's Note

WPX Contest: The CQWW WPX contest for SSB is coming up on March 26-27 0000Hrs Z to 2359hrs Z. This contest is popular and busy as you can work anyone, anywhere and usually is pretty busy with lots of DXCC's on the air. This is a great opportunity to work some new DXCC's. Info can be found at www.cqwpw.com

Ontario QSO Party: Is on April 16 and 17th, 2022 and is a great chance to jump on and have everyone chasing you for a contact. Info can be found at: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/index.htm>

Don't forget I am looking pictures of your Radio setups, home or mobile and also some articles or ham radio related stories, just send them along to me at va3tps@outlook.com .

73 de **Steve VA3TPS**



Special Event Stations

The IARU HF Championships are on the weekend of July 10, 2022, this is where Radio Amateur Teams from around the world attend and compete for the Championship and this year it is in Italy. To celebrate this competition 150 Italian Ham radio operators are operating special event stations from January to July 10, 2022.

All you need is 50 points to get a certificate, which is between 10 to 20 contacts depending on which mode is used. They are operating SSB, CW RTTY, and FT8 on all bands from 10m to 160m.

You can get more info at www.qrz.com and enter callsign I18WRTC or at <https://www.wrtc2022.it> and click on the WRTC 2022 Award.

From the President.

Well I have been busy for a while now. This time building some VHF Yagi beam's with a wood boom to start. Then when I find that they work I will switch over to an aluminum boom. The first VHF Yagi antenna is a handheld 2 meter 3 element beam. I would like to use this in a Fox Hunt. Anybody else up for a Fox Hunt this summer? Let me know. Does anyone know of where we could borrow or does anyone have a Fox transmitter that we use, if so let me know.

I will share some pictures when the Yagi's are finished.

The next VHF Yagi beam antenna that I am building with a wood boom is a four element 2 meter beam. I plan to replace my temporary vertical Slim-Jim antenna in PVC conduit that is attached to my rear deck with a mast and this beam. Don't really need it for our repeater as I can use my handheld with an 18" rubber duck (not stock) antenna anywhere in the house and work the repeater. Would like to connect some repeaters that are farther away.

I borrowed two Yagi antennas with wood booms from a fellow ham to see the bits that the plans don't show you for some reason. That helped quite a bit as I had a few questions. With all of my questions answered, I started to build. I brought two Yagi antennas, one 4 element 2 meter beam and a 6 element 70 cm beam to WFF to show the group. See the picture in the WFF section of this newsletter.

I am finding building these antenna's quite easy to do and quite inexpensive, unless I make a mistake. So far I am lucky – no mistakes.

My first project was to build an EFHW (End Fed Half Wave) antenna. This antenna is for HF to cover the 80 m to 20 m bands. Ideal for outdoor events and field day. It's almost complete as well. Thanks to **Brian VE3IK** who assisted me with the initial design and some resistors for testing without having to string out 132' of wire for preliminary SWR testing. Speaking of wire, thanks to **Laird VE3LKS** who had some spare wire in his amateur radio stockroom. I believe that Laird also supplied **Warren VA3WEB** with some wire for his new antenna.

The next task will be learning how to tune the antennas to get that low SWR. Hopefully, that should also be easy with my Nano VNA antenna analyzer. I have basic knowledge on how to use my Nano VNA but will be looking to **John VE3KZT** to hopefully get a presentation on the use of the Nano VNA as this analyzer can do a lot of stuff.

Speaking of **John – VE3KZT** he is also building a Loop Antenna for HF. See the picture of the loop antenna and John in the WFF section as well. Hopefully, we can get him to write up a column on how he built it, what bands he can use and what SWR did he finally get after tuning.

While I am on this topic of building antenna's, is anyone interested in learning how to build antennas. There seems to be a few people that are building new antennas. If you have built one, send me some details and we can post it in our newsletter.

Anybody else got some Ham related projects on the go now or planned? Let Steve or myself know. We would like to hear about them.

~