

Monthly Update

April 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**

April Meeting

When: Wednesday April 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Due to on the 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 get together but on the third Wednesday the first hour is usually an amateur radio presentation followed by our official club meeting to deal with club business and then after the meeting is finished we carry on with the Virtual Parking lot.

This month **John VE3KZT** has arranged a presentation on Acquiring, Restoring, and Operating Boat Anchors: How to acquire vintage ham radio equipment from auctions and estate sales; how to troubleshoot and replace defective components; how operating vintage equipment differs from modern radios with Dennis K4PU.

March Club Meeting

At our March meeting we had two great presentations one on the Raspberry PI by **Daryl Corbett VA3UAP** and the second on Hotspots by **Allan Boyd VE3AJB**. These were very informative presentations with lots of information.

Tuesday Night Rag Chew

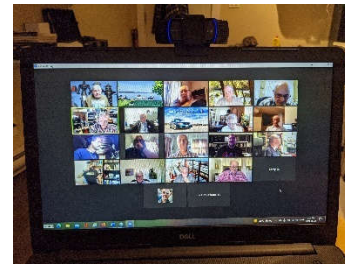
This is not a formal net but rather a lively roundtable. Some can only stick around for a few minutes while others are there from start to finish. We never know what the topic de jour will be but someone always comes up with something interesting. So, if you are available between 1900 and 2000 hr on Tuesday's pop onto VE3OSH and join 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 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 **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 www.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 a Virtual Parking Lot get together on 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 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 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!

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.



RAC

RAC Membership -- What can you get for CAD 0.001920 per day these days?

Well you can get a membership in our national Amateur Radio Organization, the Radio Amateurs of Canada.

If you join before July 1st, the date when the membership fee increases by 4% for the first time since 2010, its CAD 0.001734 per day.

These numbers are for the paper copy of the magazine The Canadian Amateur. The digital subscription membership costs less if you ignore the cost of electricity or batteries.

The membership benefits listed on the RAC website are shown below:

- The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine: available in print and digital formats
- Two annual RAC contests: RAC Canada Day Contest and RAC Canada Winter Contest
- RAC Operating Awards
- Affiliated Club Program
- Affiliated Club Liability Insurance Program
- QSL Bureau System
- Youth Education Program
- RAC Scholarship and Grant Program
- Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame
- RAC Amateur of the Year
- RAC Field Organization
- RAC Certified Emergency Coordinator Program
- RAC website

I won't suggest that all of them will be attractive to all HAMS, unless they are driving to get every last bit of value from a penny, are Scottish, or are from Yorkshire, or as my Buba used to tell me, 'are a good Ukranian'. Buba insisted that is was the Ukrainians who 'gave' the Celtic folks their tartans and taught them all they needed to know about good alcohol. Many will agree they learned the later skill very well.

Because this is a big hobby with many facets, not everything appeals to everybody. Some elements will appeal to every segment of the hobby. My friends are chirping me over brushing up my Morse Code. Let them laugh. I just tell them it's old school texting. I will also remind some of the more good natured ones that 'we' had wireless networks in the 1920s and 30s.... WE also where Gigahertz in the 30s, 40s and 50s. That one usually shuts them up for a while.

Banding together for a greater good is something we all need to keep in mind. This is likely more true than ever before in our fractured environment.

I can tell you why I think a RAC membership is important.

These are my personal reasons for spending 192 thousandths of a penny per day:

1. I don't need additional batteries or electricity to read a magazine. If circumstances warrant, a Coleman lantern or even a candle works well. You might get enough heat from a Coleman lantern to use a thermocouple to get a few millivolts. Charging your phone with a Coleman lantern? Who knows? Could be an interesting project. Now if times are really desperate, I can use an older magazine to help start a fire in the fireplace. Yes I still burn wood.
2. I like reading the magazine. I work on computers all bloody day. Not looking at a screen and reading is really, REALLY nice.
3. I learn things about other parts of the country. As band conditions improve and more importantly as I am able to improve my antennas I hope to be able to talk to more of 'my fellow Canadians'.
4. I learn things about various aspects of technology, even things I have no direct interest in. Learning is always fun (except perhaps when it comes to how much car repairs cost).

5. Supporting the organization that is looking out for the larger interests of my hobby is important to me. After all they're dealing with the Civil Servants and Government Ministers to keep our spectrum, rules and regulations in place. They also band together with other national Amateur Radio organizations to fight for our share of the spectrum internationally.
6. Showing support for my fellow HAMS with my membership helps us all. Full disclosure here, in general terms it helps us all, all of the time, but it may not necessarily help me directly all the time.
7. I believe that sometimes it more than 'being all about me'.
8. My Club benefits from my spending \$0.001920 a day with a reduced insurance cost for our liability insurance. This means my annual dues go farther. Each Club member who is also a RAC member saves the Club \$13.00 in insurance fees.
9. The QSL Bureau works really well. I actually do use it.
10. The Affiliated Club Liability Insurance Program does offer me the comfort of both individual and Club protection from those more litigious members of our society.

For those who may not know, this is what our RAC insurance gets for us:

"Commercial General Liability insurance providing coverage of \$5,000,000 per occurrence with a \$1,000 deductible for normal radio club activities such as club meetings, Field Day, club repeater installations, public events and demonstrations."

"Members of RAC, who are also a member of an insured Affiliated Club – i.e., a club that is participating in the RAC Affiliated Club Insurance Program – will *automatically*, and at *no additional cost*, obtain liability coverage for their personal Amateur Radio activities. This provides the same levels of protection (\$5 million limit per occurrence) as the Affiliated Club insurance for their personal station and activities, mobile and portable operation subject to a few conditions. Personal insurance does not cover damage to the member's home or that of a person also insured under the program."

Here's the link: <https://www.rac.ca/insurance/>

I will point out that Club Liability insurance is one of the things that helped us secure the Purple Woods Site for our repeater. They are a rider on our policy as part of the terms of the agreement between NSARC and CLOCA.

The bottom Line:

We don't have pennies anymore. Personally, I think it's a shame because it seems businesses always round up, never down (for me at least). Thousandths of a penny or millipennies doesn't compare with the cost of a coffee at WFF or Timmies. For what is available to members I believe it's worth it. For the benefit of the wider hobby, if nothing else it is noble.

And for those who disagree, let's agree to disagree agreeably.

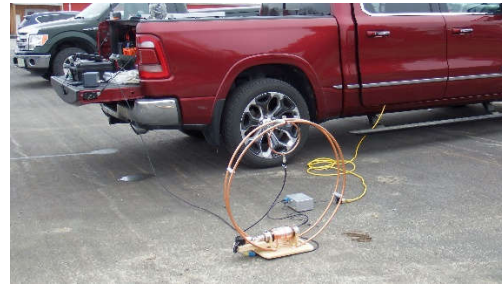
de **Ken VE3RMK**

DSTAR Repeater



As some of you might know **Aldo VA3AG** one of the members of our outstanding Repeater Crew has been busy working on a DStar Repeater for our club. In the pictures you can see the Repeater and the Duplexer. The system is undergoing testing and **Aldo** is waiting for WNYSORC to coordinate the frequency he has applied for and Aldo will hopefully have more information in the near future on this.

White Feather Fun!



We Moved! With the milder temperature and no wind we didn't need the shelter of the store so were able to setup in our summer spot. The new parking area works well for our get togethers, lots of room and much better since they paved it.

Had a great turn out, all 17 of us, not including the two late comers from Janetville, welcome Anne VE3KWI and Bob VE3ADJ. Doug VE3GVW brought his magnetic loop up again and had it working with Grants VA3KJI portable HF rig. Grant also had some tower climbing equipment for the give away. John VE3KZT is collecting the parts for his mag-loop and showed the variable capacitor he was going to use. Also on display was how should I say a grass roots vintage key.

If you are interested the field to the south was corn last year, Hubert said will be planted with soybeans this year, didn't have a chance to talk with him to find out when this will happen.

On the drive home from WFF, Gerard VE3CWR and myself spotted some wild turkeys. The toms were strutting their stuff and the hens couldn't care less, know how that feels.

(thanks to **Joe VE3VGI** 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 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:

Ranger RCI-5054DX 6m transceiver. AM/FM/SSB/CW. 25W. Comes with mounting bracket, microphone and power cable with cigarette plug. \$160 OBO. Contact Laird VE3LKS @ VE3LKS@yahoo.ca



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

April's Shack of the month is from **Steve VA3TPS**



Website – www.ve3osh.com

My main operating station is the one on the right a Yaesu FTDX 3000. I use this setup for most of my operating, I enjoy DXing , digital modes FT8 and PSK31 and I do some casual contesting looking for another country to add to my DXCC totals.

The radios on the left are my older Yaseu FT1000Mkv V and FT847 which I use occasionally to check into Ontars or do some good old fashion Rag Chews.

My antennas are a 6m to 80m OCF dipole running through the bushes and works very well. I also have a 6m to 40m Vertical out back in the bush lot.

As for the handhelds, I just can't help myself when I see one for sale!

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

We are still continuing with our Friday at 7:00 pm CW training class on Zoom with our instructor **Aldo VA3AG** doing the honors. We have completed 15 classes to date. Most are able to read and send CW with some struggling with a few characters. But we are still trying to learn.

Thanks **Aldo!**

Editor's Note

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.

Email – info@ve3osh.com

Larry Goucher VA3FHG – SK

Sadly, we lost another cherished member of the North Shore ARC this past weekend. On the morning of Saturday, April 16, **Larry** peacefully passed away with his loving wife, Nancy, by his side.

Larry's enthusiasm for leading and helping out with events, level-headed analysis and contagious laugh will be greatly missed.

Larry had many passions that he pursued and some of those he intertwined with Amateur Radio.

As a long time cycling enthusiast he got the North Shore ARC involved with providing communications in various biking events. As a Scout leader for many years **Larry** found a way to get the club involved with their Jamboree On The Air events when needed. Most recently **Larry** got the club involved with the Ontario Regiment Museum, where he was a volunteer, as a participant in their Aquino Tank Weekend event. In short, if there was something happening chances are **Larry** was involved in some way.

Over the years **Larry** also held several positions on the North Shore ARC executive again showing his devotion to a hobby and club that he enjoyed.

Yes, we may have lost our dear friend **Larry** but our fond memories of him will continue on unfaded by time. I know that Nancy, and the rest of **Larry's** family, will miss him dearly and I know that a lot of us Amateurs who were fortunate to call him a friend will miss him too.

73, OM, 73.

Written by Laird Solomon

